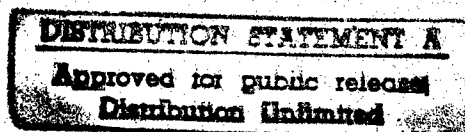


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USSR Report

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6 March 1984

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

CARPATHIAN MD OFFICIAL UNDERLINES SOCIALIZING ROLE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES

Moscow PARTIYNAYA ZHIZN' in Russian No 24, Dec 83 pp 54-59

[Article by Lieutenant General V. Silakov, member of military council, chief of political administration, Red Banner Carpathian Military District: "In Continuous Readiness to Defend the Achievements of Socialism"]

[Text] Always remember Lenin's behest to remain alert and strive continuously and unflaggingly to increase combat readiness—this is an immutable law and the greatest obligation of our armed defenders of the motherland. This is particularly important today, when the international situation is being brought to maximum heat by the imperialism of the USA and the other countries of the West marching in lock-step with it.

The fighting men of our Red Banner district, as do all Soviet people, unanimously endorse and support the declaration of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the presidium of the USSR supreme soviet concerning the beginning of the deployment of American intermediate-range missiles in Western Europe. It is entirely necessary for the Soviet Union to take measures in response in order to maintain the military equilibrium, which American imperialism is attempting to destroy.

The troops of our district see their mission to lie in striving continuously to improve the state of their combat training and to be prepared at any moment to deal a decisive rebuff to an aggressor. All party political work in our units and formations is governed by the need to bring troops to a high state of vigilance and maintain them in continuous combat readiness. Since the June (1983) CPDU Central Committee plenum this effort has been given greater content and undertaken with greater intensity and effectiveness.

The army has rightfully been referred to as a school of personal development. We can see the truth of this from examples to be found right here in our own district. Visiting one of our units not long ago was Mikhail Stepanovich Gnativ, a brigade leader on an insulating and stringing column working on the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline. He used to be assigned to this unit as a gunner. This reserve sergeant spoke with great enthusiasm about how much his time in the military had done for him and how it had helped him find his place in life. For his selfless labors M. S. Gnativ has been awarded the Orders of the Red Banner of Labor and of the Friendship of Peoples and shock worker badges for the Ninth and Tenth Five-Year-Plan periods. He has also won medals of the German Democratic Republic for winning in socialist competition during construction of the export gas pipeline.

We could cite many examples like this. They demonstrate convincingly that our army is not only a school in which we learn to master our combat skills, it is also a school of ideological, moral and physical conditioning, a school of endurance, discipline and organization. Herein lies one of the important social functions performed by the Soviet Armed Forces. Soviet fighting men take pride in the high praise accorded them in the course of the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum: "Our Armed Forces are rightly called a school of courage, industry and high moral standards. We must continue in the future to do everything necessary to enlarge the educational and developmental role played by the Soviet Armed Forces."

The district military council along with its commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations have understood this mission to constitute a direct operational order, an action program handed down by the party. Now coming into the Armed Forces, and this includes the forces of our Red Banner Carpathian Military District, are young people who differ noticeably from their predecessors. These are well-educated, mature, intellectually inclined young people with broad personal horizons and diversified interests. An absolute majority of our new troops have secondary or secondary technical education. You can find soldiers and NCOs in almost every one of our subunits wearing university or institute badges on their uniforms. A substantial number of them are Komsomol members. It is only to be expected that it would be incomparably easier for troops like this to develop a mastery of today's complex military weaponry and equipment. And it's easier to teach them what they need to know in the way of general military knowledge.

At the same time, the young people coming to us today fall short, as a rule, when it comes to practical experience in life, vocational maturity, professional skills and habits. They do not know from personal experience what it is like to be subjected to the severe testing of class struggle and war, when the true face of imperialism and its hatred of the socialist system are most clearly revealed. Also to be encountered among our new draftees are some who exhibit, as it was put at the June CPSU Central Committee plenum, an underdeveloped civic consciousness, political naivete, a consumer mentality and an apparent desire to set themselves apart not by knowledge and industry, but rather by a superficial bravado and pretenses of "independence."

The educational, indoctrinational, work we do with our personnel takes all these factors into consideration, which from our commanders, political personnel and party and Komsomol activists requires high levels of pedagogical skill, tact, persistence, patience and thorough understanding of the psychology of these young people.

Political, moral and vocational maturity are marks of the Soviet military serviceman. They are the product of painstaking, objective-oriented educational efforts lasting the full duration of a man's time in the service—from the instant a young man arrives at his unit to the day he is transferred to the reserves. There are many aspects to this work; it is difficult and occasionally unobservable from the outside, but it is nevertheless an effort of enormous importance to the country.

Receiving top priority in this complex process is ideological, mass-scale political work whose objective is to develop a new person—an ardent patriot and internationalist with a class consciousness characterized by thorough comprehension of

his military obligations, an active point of view toward his responsibilities as a citizen, initiative and creativity in his approach to both the discharge of military duties and the performance of any other socially useful labor and intense interest in all national affairs. Ideological tempering and the development of a scientific world view, the inculcation of selfless devotion to communist ideals and a continuous readiness to stand in defense of the socialist fatherland and to work for its good—these constitute the core of program of indoctrination.

It is toward this objective that the efforts of our political organs, commanders, political personnel, party and Komsomol organizations and army cultural and educational institutions are primarily directed. Programs of political instruction for soldiers and NCOs constitute the most important mode of ideological tempering through which we put our active-duty personnel. We organize them closely around themes concerning our national life and the missions assigned the Armed Forces. Party organizations insure that the best trained and prepared, the most mature officers are put in charge of the political instruction groups. A great deal of effort goes into improving the ideological-theoretical and methodological training of all categories of instructors and staff and nonstaff propagandists. Senior unit and subunit personnel, representatives of local party and soviet organizations and top performers in industry and agriculture are brought in to play a role in the political instruction. Our overall objective is to insure that the political knowledge the troops get out of these programs is converted into strong conviction and that this conviction is demonstrated in practical deeds.

We combine our political instruction with daily mass political educational activities, which are organized by the responsible commanders actively assisted by non-staff propagandists brought in from the agitprop organizations associated with political organs, the agitprop groups of party committees and unit and subunit Komsomol organizations. Military, moral and legal instruction is a major focus of these presentations. These activities take a broad range of forms and involve a great variety of approaches: lecture, reports, group and one-on-one discussions, readings and lessons on Lenin, evening programs with a variety of topical presentations, readers conferences and question-and-answer programs.

The tank unit party committee headed by Major A. Sof'in plays an active role in this educational process. Questions concerning efforts to enhance the educational role of military service are regularly discussed at party gatherings and meetings of the party committee and considered at the officer and warrant officer conferences. Party activists have focused their efforts upon the development of organizational cohesion and the improvement of the moral and legal education not only of newer soldiers, but of personnel in their third and fourth training periods as well.

The period subsequent to the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum has seen an intensification of communist influence brought to bear upon service personnel. Unit staff officers, chiefs of services, engineering and technical personnel and military legal specialists have been brought in to participate directly in company- and platoon-level educational programs. Legal educational programs for different categories of military personnel, to include commanders of all ranks, have been intensified.

The Soviet Army is an outstanding school of internationalism, a school for the development of friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of the land of soviets. The forces stationed in our district include soldiers representing many nationalities and peoples. They are all performing a common mission, they live and work under identical conditions and on the basis of their own personal experience come to know the powerful force of the awareness of being part of one big family. It occurs as no coincidence that former soldiers and NCOs returning to civilian life after a period of military service carry on friendly correspondence not only with their old units, but also with former comrades-in-arms from other union and autonomous republics.

I would like in this connection to draw attention to one other important circumstance. Not all new troops just beginning their military service possess a good command of the Russian language. But if you talk to them just before they are reassigned to the reserves, you can see how much their knowledge and practical speaking skills have improved. It is not simply that they have had to be in continuous communication with commanders and fellow service members using the language of friendship and brotherhood between all our peoples such as the Russian language is. The objective-oriented efforts put forth by our commanders and party and Komsomol organizations also plays an important role here. Russian language is also a subject of study in special circles and groups, during sessions of political instruction and as part of various mass-scale activities. The military publishing house of the USSR ministry of defense has put out an illustrated textbook for soldiers who still have only a weak command of the Russian language.

There is really no need to emphasize the fact that fluency in the Russian language not only contributes to successful discharge of military responsibilities, but also opens up the greatest opportunities for work and further training upon completion of military service anywhere in our vast motherland.

The military organizations of our district have built up a good base upon which to conduct mass-scale political programs. Each company and equivalent subunit has a Lenin Room provided with a television, radio, a small library, collections of newspapers and magazines and carefully planned and designed visual agitational materials. Under the direction of the commander, the political officer and the company party organization, the Lenin Room committee organizes readings and lessons on Lenin, daytime and evening programs devoted to a variety of topics, reports and discussions of subjects of current interest and viewings and then discussion of the most interesting television programs. The daily routine is specially organized so as to allow time for personnel to watch "Vremya" [Time], "Sluzhu Sovetskomu Soyuzu!" [I Serve the Soviet Union], broadcast by Central Television, and the television magazine "Slava soldatskaya" [A Soldier's Glory].

As a rule, the Lenin Rooms are also used as facilities to bring the troops together in to discuss important problems in social life and problems of special concern to the military collectives involved. Discussions of problems that need to be solved and the freest possible criticism and selfcriticism help develop in our servicemen a personal unwillingness to accept deficiencies and to put up with the unconscientiousness of some soldiers in their attitudes toward training and duty performance and an individual resolve to overcome any obstacle that keeps them from achieving the highest ratings.

Representatives of local party organizations and workers groups are frequent guests in the Lenin Rooms. Take the discussion devoted to the 80th anniversary of the 2d Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party, for example, which was held in the Lenin Room of one of the subunits. Leading the discussion was I. I. Skiba, member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet and first secretary of the Ivano-Frankovsk oblast party committee. Also speaking to the troops were party veterans including V. M. Parkulab, former member of the Communist Party of the Western Ukraine and an active participant in the struggle to reunite the lands of the Western Ukraine with the Soviet Ukraine, V. M. Tkachuk, delegate to the 26th Congress of the CPSU, chairman of Prapor kommunizmu kolkhoz in Kolomyyskiy Rayon and Hero of Socialist Labor, N. F. Levitskaya, delegate to the 25th Congress of the CPSU and brigade leader in the pattern-cutting section at the R. Lyuksemburg Factory, Professor B. G. Tarasov, Doctor of Technical Sciences, delegate to the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and rector of the Oil and Gas Institute and others. It would not be difficult to imagine the interest with which the soldiers and NCOs listened to them and the profound impression these meetings leave in the hearts of our troops.

Our district comprises a number of illustrious formations and units. Thousands upon thousands of valiant defenders of the motherland have fought under their colors and accomplished deeds which will always be remembered. Seven hundred soldiers, NCOs, officers and generals were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, while the names of 17 brave Heroes who gave their lives on the battlefield have been permanently inscribed on the rolls of their companies, batteries and squadrons. In developing in our new army troops a sense of pride in their district and their regiment, commanders, political personnel and party and Komsomol activists make the fullest possible use of "Krasnoznamennyy Prikarpat'skiy" [The Red Banner Carpathian], a brief historical outline. This book, which has recently appeared in a new edition, contains a wealth of material, familiarization with which helps develop in each individual soldier those high personal qualities of the patriot, the citizen, the internationalist always prepared to stand in defense of the achievements of socialism.

Propaganda devoted to the revolutionary and fighting traditions of the Communist Party, the Soviet people and the USSR Armed Forces assigns a major role to the National Museum of the History of Forces of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District and the museums and Combat Glory Rooms set up in all formations [soyedeniye] and in many units [chast']. The district museum brings together exhibits especially designed to provide an account of the illustrious deeds performed on the battlefield by our front-line veterans as well as of successes achieved by the district troops of today. Special lessons in courage, meetings with heroes of the Great Patriotic War and tours with the particular objective of instilling respect for tradition are organized here as well. The museum also arranges mobile exhibits to send out to more remotely located garrisons. Travelling with these exhibitions will be groups of veterans. The new soldier will usually begin his time in the service with a visit to the museum or the Combat Glory Room of his formation or unit.

The last few years have seen the modernization of most of the soldiers clubs in the district. Many of them are now in no way inferior to our rayon Houses of Culture. Here we are seeing the organization of intensive, objective-oriented ideological-educational programs utilizing the wealth of material available in

our regimental libraries, movies, television, radio and a variety of technical and visual propaganda aids. Most clubs feature continuous programs of performances by amateur theatrical groups and groups devoted to a variety of special interests. The district's officers houses and officers clubs also do a great deal to support the programs of activities organized for our soldiers and NCOs. All these activities are scheduled so as to dovetail with long-range plans for the cultural development of our military personnel covering the entire period of their military service.

The L'vov Order of the Red Star Drama Theater of the Soviet Army and the district choral and dance ensemble are also responsible for a major contribution to the program designed for the ideological-aesthetic development of our personnel. Their repertoire is devoted to distinctly heroic and patriotic themes, and their concerts and other presentations are highly popular among the troops. Military sponsorships undertaken by people in the arts, culture and science also play an important role in the educational and personal development of the defenders of the motherland. It has recently become popular to conclude cultural cooperation agreements. The L'vov Oblast Philharmonic Society, for example, has been sponsoring one of the units in the garrison for six years now. Artists frequently perform in the unit club; they invite the troops to concerts and provide them assistance in putting on amateur performances. The unit party committee and the party organization of the philharmonic society keep in continuous contact with one another and work together to solve problems of concern to both military organizations and artistic groups. At the special Victory Day ceremony on May 9, 1983, an agreement on cultural cooperation for the next five years was signed in the presence of all personnel.

Our war veterans play a role in the ideological tempering and military education of our young army personnel which cannot be overestimated. Each meeting with these front-line veterans is an impressive, deeply moving lesson in patriotism, courage, military valor and devotion to duty. In organizing these activities, the district political administration and formation political organs rely for assistance upon local sections of the Soviet War Veterans Committee, the various unit veterans councils, the military science societies of the officers houses and other veterans organizations.

The meeting in the CPSU Central Committee with party veterans, which produced an enthusiastic response among the troops of the Carpathian Military District, provided new impetus to efforts to intensify the educational-indoctrinational activities of our former front-line fighters. Practical questions concerning the participation of these front-line veterans in propagandizing the heroic history of the Soviet Armed Forces and the forces of the Carpathian Military District and in programs designed to develop the desired fighting efficiency, morale and political consciousness in our soldiers, NCOs, warrant officers and officers were thoroughly discussed at a meeting the district military council recently held with participants in the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars and veterans of the USSR Armed Forces. The concluding portion of this meeting was held in one of the units of the L'vov garrison. The young troops greeted these veterans enthusiastically, familiarized them with some of the latest in military weaponry and equipment and demonstrated their skills. Meetings like this have been organized in all garrisons within the district.

It should be pointed out here that up until recently the veterans would meet with our soldiers and NCOs primarily on the special days, anniversaries and the like. Our elder comrades are now increasingly frequently meeting with our young troops in the course of a daily, duty-day routine directly in their subunit areas, Lenin Rooms and motor pools. Veterans are also going out to the training areas and facilities where our troops are to be engaged in tactical or other field training exercises. These opportunities for intimate personal conversations with people who have themselves performed heroic deeds on the battlefield (these meetings will occasionally be arranged at sites where battles once raged in the vicinity of the ruins of what used to be earth-and-timber and permanent emplacements or of trenches which have now collapsed) invariably leave an indelible impression on our young troops. This has a beneficial effect upon both the efficiency and quality of their subsequent performance.

The troops of the Samaro-Ul'yanovskaya Railroad Division are also heirs to an illustrious tradition. This, of course, is no coincidence, what with the fact that this is the oldest organization in the Soviet Armed Forces, to whose troops Vladimir Il'ich Lenin expressed his gratitude in 1918. In July 1983 the Railroad Division celebrated its 65th anniversary. Veterans of the Civil and Great Patriotic Wars from 36 cities and nooks and crannies all over the country attended the ceremonies. They were greeted by young troops drawn up in formation on the reviewing ground. These were stirring moments. The names of many of these veterans had been known to each one of these soldiers since the very beginning of their military service.

For several years now the top subunits in the division have been competing for an honored prize—the challenge banner in honor of Hero of the Soviet Union Vladimir Petrovich Mayborskiy. The troops have now had the opportunity to meet informally with the Hero himself—a man of legend, one of the three Soviet fighting men to have duplicated the feat of Aleksandr Matrosov and are still alive. Adding to Vladimir Petrovich's own dramatic and enthusiastic story were Major (Retired) A. A. Buberev, his former battalion commander, and Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) V. P. Minakov, his former regimental commander, both witnesses to Mayborskiy's heroic deed.

Speaking during the lessons in courage the division subunits conduct on these special occasions have been A. A. Koshelev, full holder of the Order of Glory and a fearless reconnaissance man, Colonel (retired) G. N. Vorozheykin, former artillery division commander and holder of the Orders of Lenin and many others and other illustrious veterans of the Railroad Division.

The district's formations arrange these stirring, intimate meetings on a systematic basis. They help instill in our young servicemen a deep respect for the generations which have preceded them and a desire to carry on their heroic traditions.

The combat training process exercises an enormous influence upon the personal development of a young man, a process which is organized so as to insure that he is required to function in an environment maximally approaching the conditions he would expect to encounter in actual combat and to demonstrate what he has in the way of will power, discipline, judgement, resourcefulness, endurance and initiative. Socialist competition is a tried and proven means of improving the quality of military duty performance and its effectiveness as an educational tool. We

are currently conducting our competition under the slogan: "Be vigilant, always prepared to stand in defense of the achievements of socialism." Having to overcome obstacles our troops develop strong character, endurance and persistence in striving to achieve objectives.

Regardless of the task a soldier is assigned, the primary determinant of his success is going to be a strong discipline grounded in unfailing adherence to requirements imposed by the oath and the regulations. The units of our district are engaged in a consistent effort to strengthen discipline and improve organization by intensifying the political education programs for all categories of service personnel, increasing the exactingness of the demands our commanders and officers of all grades impose upon their men, insuring rigorous adherence to established regulation procedures in all military collectives, improving the personal examples set by our communists and Komsomol members and increasing their sense of individual responsibility.

We look upon military discipline as a primarily political, a moral, category. It is based upon the ideological conviction of the individuals involved and the spiritual maturity of the collective. This is what defines the concerns and fuels the efforts of our party organizations to develop in our military personnel a sense of personal responsibility for the security of the country and the defense of socialism, which is particularly important with the sharply exacerbated international situation created by the preparation on the part of aggressive imperialist circles in the US and NATO to unleash a new world war. Our efforts to tighten discipline are accordingly linked inseparably with both our consistent propaganda emphasis upon Lenin's injunctions concerning the need to stand in defense of the socialist fatherland and our efforts to develop a class instinct and thorough comprehension of the fact that without discipline there will be no victory over the enemy.

Discipline is also inseparable from the quality of the everyday life we provide our troops. The district military council attaches a great deal of importance to the quality of the facilities available. Armed Forces veterans and our own troops who come back to visit their old units say with both delight and satisfaction that they don't recognize the old "barracks." Of course, we no longer have "barracks" as this term is usually understood. Now the soldiers have a dormitory with good beds with joining lockers, curtains on the windows, rugs and indoor slippers to wear. Here you'll see not only colorful flowers, but also attractive areas in which a man can relax and get his mind off the everyday routine or unwind after a hard day of training. As a rule, the mess halls are provided with six-place tables, good-quality table service and attractive interiors. All these things not only make the soldier's everyday life a little easier, they also help accustom him to high standards and good order.

Nothing we've said here, of course, should be taken to mean we think we don't have any problems with our military educational programs, that they've all been solved once and for all. There's no such thing in life, as we know. Among the problems which are in fact of concern to the district military council we could point to the discrepancies which exist in the training of different subunits, which is frequently to be explained by the fact that the words of some of our senior personnel don't always jibe with their deeds. We have collectives who can rest content with only mediocre results, organizations which at the same time are not fulfilling the socialist obligations they have undertaken. This state of affairs will be found

to be the result of deficiencies in education and indoctrination and in the failure of some senior personnel and party and Komsomol organizations to be sufficiently exacting and to stand firmly enough on principle.

Continued efforts to increase the cohesiveness of our military collectives, to enlarge their educational and indoctrinational roles and to insure rigorous adherence to established regulation procedures and to rules governing relations between service members are focuses of our continuous concern. We take into account the fact that a substantial number of our young troops are called up for military service directly from the school classroom. They have not been able to acquire adequate vocational skills or to accustom themselves to surmount the burdens and hardships which are an inevitable part of army life. All these factors, of course, only complicate the tasks of our commanders and instructors and require a search for effective ways to deal with people and for creative, innovative approaches to these tasks.

By creatively utilizing a variety of forms and methods of working with young people, the local party organs, Komsomol and DOSAAF organizations, worker, student and school groups and parents can be of great assistance to us in these efforts. Meetings with former front-line soldiers and participants in the liberation of different towns and villages, gatherings arranged in connection with the unveiling of monuments to our fallen soldiers or of memorial plaques, film festivals—all these activities must be organized on a high ideological-political and emotional level.

Guided by decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and of the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, the commanders, political organs and party organizations of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District are striving consistently to insure that army service becomes a true school for the development of courage and the mastery of skills and that the young men coming into the Armed Forces grow and mature and develop into true patriots of the Soviet motherland prepared to go to the limit in fulfilling their duty to the people and the party.

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ARMED FORCES

GENERAL ZAYTSEV ON INTENSIFIED COMBAT TRAINING FOR GSFG UNITS

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 2, Jan 84 pp 43-50

[Article by Army General M. Zaytsev, commander-in-chief, Group of Soviet Forces Germany, Hero of the Soviet Union: "Tested Principle of Troop Training"]

[Text] Winter combat training is in full swing. The personnel are working intensely to fulfill the requirements of the Communist Party and instructions of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, concerning strengthening the defense capability of the country, increasing the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces, and solving the difficult tasks set by the USSR Minister of Defense. GSFG soldiers know clearly that they are on the front lines of defense of the achievements of socialism. For them the heightened military danger from imperialism is a very tangible reality. Close at hand, on the territory of the FRG and other NATO countries, in addition to the existing huge arsenal of weapons, including nuclear weapons, deployment of new American cruise and ballistic first-strike missiles has begun. The armies of the North Atlantic bloc countries are being re-equipped with the most modern tanks, multi-purpose aircraft and helicopters and tube and rocket artillery systems. Offensive missions, especially military operations with the use of weapons of mass destruction, were worked out during exercises and maneuvers conducted in 1983.

GSFG personnel are watching these aggressive preparations attentively, maintaining strict military standards, and persistently perfecting their readiness to rebuff a possible enemy attack. Common political days conducted in all large units and units with the participation of the command and political leadership, and discussions and question and answer sessions in the subunits devoted to interpreting the statements of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov have become authentic lessons in vigilance.

The personnel affirm through deeds their monolithic cohesion around Lenin's party and their unanimous approval and support of its policy. Last year an appreciable step forward was made in mastering weapons and equipment, improving the intensiveness and quality of tactical and firing training, and in field and flight training. As the final inspection demonstrated, the overwhelming majority of units and subunits are at a high state of combat readiness, and can at any moment execute a combat order and accomplish the missions assigned to them. Among these units I would like to mention the Proskurov-Berlin Thrice Decorated Guards Tank Regiment imeni G. I. Kotovskiy, which was the initiator of

socialist competition in the Ground Forces in 1983. Reverently preserving and building upon the traditions of the older generation of regimental fellow soldiers, the guards soldiers honorably fulfilled their high socialist commitments and became one of the best units in GSFG.

There is no limit to improving military skill or mastering the art of modern warfare, and there must not be any stagnation or marking time. Socialist competition under the slogan "Be On Guard, In Constant Readiness to Defend the Accomplishments of Socialism!" is widely developed, as initiated by the military collective of the Thrice Decorated Prokurov Motorized Rifle Regiment, which accepted the baton of initiator from the Kotovskiy Guards personnel, and throughout GSFG. This slogan expresses the thoughts, strivings and feelings of responsibility and patriotic and international duty of all GSFG soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers and officers. Their selfless labor and creative initiative are completely focused on achieving a new and higher level of combat readiness. Commanders, political organs and staffs, relying on the growing activeness of party and komsomol organizations, are ensuring that combat training and political education are conducted effectively and are of high quality, and that the principle, "teach the soldiers that which they need in war," which has been tested by time and the fires of battle, reigns completely during training.

What the soldier or officer needs in war in order to withstand, overcome and destroy the enemy is well known from the combat experience of the Great Patriotic War. He needs ideological conviction; unshakable faith in the truth of our cause; filial devotion to his people, the Leninist party and the socialist Homeland; mastery of his weapons and equipment; high level tactical and firing training; moral, political and psychological training and physical tempering. He needs irreproachable performance and discipline; readiness to fulfill his orders at any cost, even that of his own life; courage, determination, valor and other moral and military qualities.

All of these qualities are also extremely necessary to today's defender of the Homeland. Modern warfare, as Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, USSR Minister of Defense indicates, will make incomparably greater demands on the soldier than all previous wars. It will demand capable actions on the field of battle under conditions of enemy use of weapons of mass destruction and powerful guided weapons systems, a high degree of psychological stability, and operational methods which permit smaller forces to inflict a decisive defeat upon the enemy.

As we see, the fundamental principle of troop training has acquired a new and more profound content in our time. It encompasses ever more completely not only combat training, but also discipline and ideological, political and physical tempering.

Stemming from this and guided by the requirements of the USSR Ministry of Defense and instructions of the commander-in-chief of the Ground Forces, the military council, political administration, commanders, staffs, political organs and party organizations of GSFG units and large units are seeking out reserves and opportunities further to increase the intensiveness and quality of

the training and educational process, and to bring combat training as close as possible to the conditions of actual combat operations. A policy of thoroughly preparing soldiers for modern combat, which combines organically training and education, and eliminates indulgences and oversimplification in training is firmly being carried out.

It is possible to arm command, political, engineer, technical and all other personnel with profound knowledge, and develop the practical skills and high moral and martial qualities required in war, only through applying advanced training methodology and with the presence of a fitting training base. And, of course, a high sense of responsibility and creative approach by each commander, political officer, officer of a staff or political organ, and serviceman toward his assigned duties is required.

The training material and technical base in our group of forces has been substantially renovated and improved, owing to the creative efforts of many collectives of innovators -- officers, warrant officers, sergeants and soldiers. This has made it possible to increase by 50 percent the intensity of tank and armored vehicle gunnery training, training firing, company and battalion live-fire tactical exercises, and operational-tactical and technical training, as well as improve their effectiveness. Almost every large unit and every unit now has the necessary training and material base facilities which meet modern requirements. It has become possible to conduct battalion level tactical live-fire training at most large unit training centers. There are sections of training areas equipped to practice operations in mountains, population centers and forests, and to force water obstacles in various ways.

The GSFG military council, staff and administration are concerned that these capabilities be fully and most advantageously utilized to improve tactical firing, field and air training. Precise schedules for the use of training base facilities and standardized schedules for conducting day and night exercises, training and drills have been compiled everywhere. Strict control over their execution has been instituted. For example, it has become a rule for individual battalions to go to the training centers to practice field training problems and to deploy to the field as completely self-contained entities. Training sessions with gunner-operators, machinegunners, grenade throwers, snipers and other specialists are carried out so that they achieve excellent results in fulfilling their duties and combat norms. Firing itself is conducted only after a test for clearance to fire, a guided projectile for example, has been taken.

Officers from the combat training administration have developed and introduced into the training process methods for intensive gunnery and tank gunnery training and for accomplishing firing and driving exercises. Each soldier trains on skills of using weapons and studies tactical drill movements and methods at least three times per week. Firing and combat vehicle driving are conducted once every ten days. In addition to this, officers report to their immediate supervisor at the end of each month what new things they have learned in tactics, organization of coordination and firing of all types of TOE weapons.

Unit and large unit commanders and staff officers speak well of short tactical exercises for officers, group exercises, and war games conducted in the operational-tactical training complex. Here one can become familiar with the recommendations of military science and achievements of military art, and adopt the leading experience acquired within the troop units. It is possible to model various tactical situations in the theater of military operations and put the students in situations which demand analytical thinking, quick reaction and courage in making decisions.

The difficult task of training personnel for modern battle is being solved directly in the regiment, battalion, artillery battalion and company. And the higher the sense of responsibility and methodological and professional skill of officers and their closest assistants -- warrant officers and sergeants -- the more successfully the task is being solved. The effectiveness of exercises, training and studies depends most of all on the commander, who is the organizer and leader of the training and educational process. The commander who himself works with intensity, increasing his ideological, theoretical, military and technical knowledge, and mastering the art of organizing offensive and defensive battle on the ground and the skills of firm command and control, also enkindles in his subordinates a desire for military perfection.

In this regard the experience of Guards Lt Col B. Dyukov, a tank regiment commander, is instructive. He studies and teaches his subordinates to fight courageously and decisively and to master the science of victory. This commander is able to evaluate new things, maintain initiative and mobilize his soldiers to achieve high end results. In his regiment the study of military equipment and mastery of its speed, maneuver and firing capabilities are combined with the search for the most effective methods of combat operations and with improving tactical and subunit firing training, field training and combat coordination.

Tankers in the subunits actively compete to destroy the targets within severe time constraints, with the first round, at maximum range. They vie for the title of sniper company. In particular, guards lieutenant colonels N. Mel and A. Finogin and guards captains V. Kudinov, Yu. Ponomarev and N. Glushchenko sought out and implemented opportunities for integrating tactical training with other subjects, making the tactical situation more complex during exercises and field firing, and improving the effectiveness of all training.

In one exercise the battalion commanded by Guards Captain V. Kudinov was required to conduct a training battle in a rather complex environment in coordination with combat helicopters. But his tankers won the duel. The battalion commander correctly assessed the capabilities of his subunits and the "enemy" forces, and made a bold maneuver to strike his weak flank. The personnel acted competently and decisively, ably using the high military capabilities of their equipment. Frequently other battalion and company commanders of this regiment have also distinguished themselves in tactical exercises.

A commander's training and maturity is demonstrated in his ability to regulate the entire complex mechanism of organizing the battle and exercising command and control of his subordinates, and conduct it competently and decisively both

day and night under any difficult condition. In terms of this, experience at the front in the Great Patriotic War is truly invaluable. In organizing the offensive, commanders ably used intervals between strong points, open flanks and other weak place in combat formations to seize the initiative and destroy the enemy. To achieve surprise they frequently attacked at night, in poor weather conditions, with the main strike conducted on difficult terrain.

Sometimes I hear that today weapons and equipment are different, and consequently other tactics are also necessary. This is true of course. With changes in equipment and military capabilities, tactics also change. But from this follows only one point -- that commander's foresight, initiative, courage, audacity, and the ability independently to solve difficult tasks are today doubly and triply necessary for an officer. Possessing these qualities, many of our commanders and achieving victories in training battles.

I recall a night tactical live-fire exercise. Lt Col S. Salov led his subunits to the designated line in the darkness and fog. Having organized reconnaissance well, and analyzing the situation, the commander was able to determine the "enemy" concept, and made a bold decision which was the only correct one for this situation. Under cover of part of his forces, he moved his subunits in another direction, led them swiftly to a water obstacle, forced it from the march and with an unexpectedly audacious attack fulfilled his mission. Unfortunately some commanders permit serious errors at times in the organization of battle. Thus Lt Col Rykov, having completed a long march and secretly occupied the attack jump-off area, did not demonstrate the necessary command and control effectiveness during the course of a training battle, was late in exploiting the results of an artillery fire strike, and did not motivate his personnel for decisive actions. The attack was dispirited and ineffective. It was necessary to repeat the training. This is now being done but only with chagrin, lowered marks and an additional expenditure of motor transport resources and fuel. But in a real combat environment a higher price would be paid for such shortcomings.

Officer N. Tereshchenko was also unsuccessful in one of the exercises. This occurred for two reasons. First, the artillerymen did not completely carry out the entire complex of measures for preparing the equipment for firing, since they hadn't been sufficiently trained for this and control over their work had been weakened. Second, the crews were accustomed to operating under simplified conditions, according to established patterns. But when the training leader complicated the situation, officer S. Troyan could not handle gun registration and other soldiers committed errors.

What do these facts indicate? First, they indicate the irresponsible attitude of some officers toward their work. They also indicate that during the new training year we must still more persistently improve commander's training and actively introduce the experience acquired in leading units and subunits. Such work is already going on. The principle that the supervisor teaches the subordinate is being more firmly implemented. Time is being more effectively allotted for day and night exercises. Officer training is stressing practical mastery of the tactics of offensive battle and active defense, skillful use of

fire and maneuver, effective means of coordinating various branches of arms and techniques for firm command and control of assigned and attached subunits.

Commanders have begun to take into account more fully the time factor in all types of training. In modern battle minutes and seconds may decide success. Therefore, it is important not merely to impart in the soldiers a feel for the rapidity and dynamism of battle, but also teach and motivate them to act ably, decisively and swiftly. Work with people being conducted by commanders, political officers, and party and komsomol organizations is having positive results. The movement in all GSFG units and subunits to better combat norms and hit targets in the first 15-20 seconds after they appear is becoming yet more widespread.

The pedagogical rule is well known that one cannot train a bold, courageous and daring man without putting him in situations in which he must demonstrate these qualities and overcome fear in the face of danger. Remembering this, commanders and staffs are striving to create a complex environment in training and exercises, of course with strict observance of safety measures, which demands from the students maximum intensity of efforts, physical endurance, resourcefulness, keen wit, ability to take risks and to obtain information about the enemy on their own.

Many years of practice have proven that the most favorable capabilities and conditions and the most effective organization of training and advanced methodology will not have the required effect unless there is firm, daily control of the training process, people are inspired to conscientious work, and they are made conscious of the fact that the path to high combat readiness, guaranteeing the country's security and victory on the real battlefield, lies only through this work. For example, in the units where officers A. Burminstrov and V. Akimov are serving, their training base is no worse, and is even better than in other units, and the methodological training with officers, warrant officers and sergeants is conducted regularly, but the results in mastering weapons and equipment and tactical and firing training are substantially more modest. What is the cause of this? It results from poor organizational and educational work and the absence of the necessary control and demandingness. At electoral meetings and party conferences, communists in these and several other units pointedly brought up the need to improve ideological and political-educational work in the light of the requirements of the June 1983 Central Committee plenum.

We are convinced from the example of leading military collectives that the active, daily political influence of political organs and party organizations on the style of work of command cadres, and on the hearts and minds of people, will appreciably influence the quality of combat training. Education of officers and all personnel, and party and political support of training effectiveness have been exemplary, purposeful, and most importantly results-producing in the political section of the unit in which officer V. Zayakin is serving, which earned the Red Banner of the military council of the Ground Forces. The regimental party committee led by Guards Major V. Pakhomovyy; Major A. Dem'yanov, deputy regimental commander for political affairs; and many other political officers are influencing combat training in a business-like manner.

Since the scope of the article does not permit me to describe their activities in detail, I will name only the main ones which, in my view, predetermine the favorable results. These include closeness to people and the ability to convince them with fervent party oratory and make the ideas of the party and its Central Committee understandable and dear to them. They also include thorough study of the situation in the military collectives, objectivity and high principles in assessing them, active support of everything new and advanced, and help to the commanders in eliminating shortcomings. Finally, they include constant concentration of efforts, ensuring that the performance of communists is exemplary, that ideological and educational work is conducted directly in the subunits, and that leaders are involved in this work. It is enough to say that 90 percent of the companies and batteries having party organizations earn excellent and good results in military training. More than two-thirds of the communist leaders at regimental, battalion, company and equivalent levels are highly qualified specialists.

Nor can one fail to note the positive tendency of the increasing strictness of party organizations toward communists for not conscientiously fulfilling their party duty and military obligations. Whereas previously communists were called to party committee and bureau sessions for serious discussion primarily as a result of shortcomings in personal conduct and discipline, now more and more often persons are called to account who permit disorganization and indulgences in training and neglect in supervision of competition. For example, the timely party demands from CPSU members upon Major B. Kireyev, subunit chief-of-staff, and guards captains Ye. Ikonnikov and V. Shevchenko, company commanders, forced them to engage in self-examination and to make corrections in their work.

The practice of using front-line experience in party and political work from the Great Patriotic War creatively in exercises deserves approval and support. Propagandist Guards Major Yu. Solov'yev, deputy subunit commanders for political affairs Guards Major V. Vasyukov and Guards Captain S. Malyshev, and many other political officers as a rule are found in the forward detachments of combat formations, and effectively relay to the soldiers the missions given by their commanders, engender in them high combat spirit and offensive enthusiasm, constantly inform the men about those who excel in training, and disclose the capabilities and weaknesses of the "enemy." Or take the matter of instilling hatred toward the enemy. During the war this work had a strong influence on the troops. But in today's opposing forces training the enemy is hypothetical, and is in fact one's military comrade. How is this handled? Guards Major Solov'yev found a way; he began to expose just before the "battle" the marauding character of the aggressor. For example, he discussed with the soldiers the atrocities committed by American soldiers in Grenada and Lebanon.

In short, when there is an able and creative attitude toward carrying it out, party and political work achieves its goals. Of course, this in no way means that there are no shortcomings or unused reserves. In the course of summing up the past training year in the GSFG military council, party electoral meetings and party conferences, numerous examples were given of the irrelevance of party work to real life and to tasks being solved, and of formalism permitted in this work. Such shortcomings have been found, in particular, in the artillery regiment in which officer Yu. Sinyukov is serving. Here not even political

lessons with soldiers and sergeants have been instituted properly, and the low rating in political education at the final inspection pulled the collective down among the laggards.

The fact that the level of discipline in some units and subunits still leaves something to be desired also indicates the low effectiveness of political and educational work. This is true, for example, in the military collectives in which officers A. Medvedev and A. Kolenok are serving. Analysis shows that the whole problem is that here much is said about strengthening discipline, but little is being done to create firm adherence to regulations and clear organization of soldiers' duties, or to maintain an atmosphere of intolerance toward violations of military regulations and norms of communist morality, and that practical training in organizational and educational work being given to officers, warrant officers and sergeants is poor in quality.

Without discipline, combat readiness and even more so victory in battle are unthinkable. From front-line experience I know that the man who is not schooled in obedience, for whom faultless performance has not become ingrained in his sweat and blood, is most often the one to commit acts fraught with serious consequences. At the front there was no instance in which an officer or soldier refused to fulfill a combat order. Nor do I remember any such instances in present-day exercises. But, our entire service is defined by orders, and the requirements of the oath and regulations must be inviolable laws for the soldiers. Why then do some soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers and officers deviate from them? Among other reasons, apparently because supervisors, fellow soldiers, and party and komsomol organizations at times still do not give a critical political assessment to such deeds or disclose their fatal consequences for combat readiness.

The tasks of strengthening discipline and self-discipline are defined clearly in the decisions of the November 1982 and June and December 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenums and the speeches of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov. We must fulfill persistently the instructions of the party and the requirements of the USSR Minister of Defense. We must increase the educational role of the whole tenor of military service, which forms not only the soldier, but also the citizen of the land of the soviets. We must ensure that officers set personal examples of discipline, and teach them how to engage in practical work to strengthen discipline and exacting adherence to regulations. We must use more fully the educational force of socialist competition. We must improve drill training and demonstrate more concern for the living conditions and leisure activities of the personnel.

Many of the units and large units in the Group of Forces have a glorious combat history, and have earned the guards title and high state awards for distinction in battles of the Great Patriotic War. This opens great opportunities in heroic and patriotic education for commanders, political officers and party and komsomol organizations. These opportunities are being used capably in most military collectives. Work in educating troops about combat traditions was especially enlivened in connection with preparations for the 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. The front-line heroes of the war teach utter devotion to the party, the people and their

socialist Homeland, courage, determination, valor and ardent fulfillment of their patriotic and international duty. Front-line experience has become more creatively used in combat training and party and political work.

GSFG troops are accomplishing their missions and fulfilling their international duty in close cooperation with the personnel of the National Peoples Army [NPA] of the German Democratic Republic. GDR party and state leaders display tremendous concern for strengthening and extending this military cooperation. Permanent, mutually enriching contacts have been established among the commanders, political organs and personnel of the two fraternal armies. Frequently Soviet and German soldiers conduct combat training exercises on the same training fields, with integrated combat crews. Sharing of experiences in combat training, political education, party-political and mass cultural work takes place in the interests of combat readiness. Materials on the training and service of comrades in arms, regularly published in the GSFG paper, SOVETSKAYA ARMIYA and the NPA paper, FOL'KSARMEYE, facilitate strengthening comradeship. In the face of military danger from imperialism, we and our German comrades are filled with mutual desire to strengthen our military cooperation in every possible way.

To prepare a soldier for what he needs in war means to decide all questions of personnel training and education systematically and comprehensively, while keeping constantly in mind the main, final result -- a real improvement in combat readiness. Remembering this, commanders, political organs, staffs, party and komsomol organizations and all GSFG soldiers are making maximum efforts to fulfill successfully the tasks of the new training year.

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ARMED FORCES

INTERVIEW WITH DEP. MIN. OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL ARMY GEN. I.V. SHKADOV

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[Interview with General of the Army Ivan Nikolayevich Shkadov, Hero of the Soviet Union: "A Heroic Career"]

[Text] General of the Army Ivan Nikolayevich Shkadov, Hero of the Soviet Union, began serving in the Armed Forces of the USSR way back in 1935. He took part in the battles in the vicinity of Lake Hassan against the Japanese militarists as a lieutenant, a tank platoon leader. When the Great Patriotic War broke out in 1941 he was assistant chief of staff (for intelligence) of a tank regiment. Then he was placed in command of a tank battalion, separate tank regiment and separate tank brigade. He fought the nazi invaders on the Bryansk, Western, Southern, South-Western, Stalingrad, Don, and Second and Third Ukrainian fronts. He took part in the liberation of Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. After the war he has held posts of responsibility in the Soviet Armed Forces. Today General of the Army Ivan Shkadov is Deputy Minister of Defence of the USSR for Personnel. Shkadov is a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet. He has kindly granted an interview to our correspondent.

[Question] Comrade General of the Army, combat readiness is the main qualitative indicator characterising the efficiency of the army and navy. It is the embodiment of the combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces. As was pointed out at the 26th CPSU Congress, this potential is a combination of top grade technical equipment, military skill and indomitable morale. What are the components of combat skill?

Military skill is the professional standard of every serviceman and the fighting efficiency of the complement of a subunit or unit in the execution of combat missions and execution of duties in line of military service. By high military skill we mean a level of moral-political, psychological, tactical, fire and technical proficiency which enables the personnel to employ with maximum effect their weapons and other military equipment in combat, and also to take advantage of the situation in various seasons of the year and at any time of the day to secure victory over a strong and powerfully equipped enemy.

[Question] This question term applies most of all to officer personnel, apparently?

Yes, of course. It is the officer who bears full responsibility for his subordinates. He trains and educates them. If necessary, he will lead them to battle in the face of mortal danger. To exercise his rights and duties with dignity the officer should command absolute prestige among the men, he should serve as a model to them. In other words, he should be highly competent in his profession. It would be appropriate to recall Vladimir Ilyich Lenin who said in this respect that to effect control one must be competent, one must know in full and precisely what the conditions of production are, one must know the equipment for this production at the contemporary level, one must have a scientific education to a certain degree.

This statement is valid for military personnel. An officer cannot be competent unless he is adequately equipped with political, operational-tactical, military-technical, military-pedagogical and other knowledge and skills. An officer must be competent in conducting political and military education of his men, in maintaining regulation routine, and in maintaining a high level of military order.

The officer's competence is capsulised in his ability to organise a battle and to gain victory over the enemy under any conditions. During the Great Patriotic War (1941-45) I was in command of the 52nd Separate Tank Regiment. I repeatedly learnt from my own experience that in battle success attends the officer who combined personal bravery with professional competence. This truth holds true today as well.

We had a Lieutenant Kryazhev, a Communist, in our regiment. He was particularly proficient in exploiting to the maximum the tank's combat capabilities both in the attack and defensively. In a battle for an inhabited locality in the Ukraine Lieutenant Kryazhev's tank wedged deep into the enemy's defence position. Executing one skilful manoeuvre after another and firing at the enemy on the move the crew diverted quite a large number of nazis. The tankmen inflicted considerable losses on the enemy and helped seize a major tactical line. Lieutenant Kryazhev was among the first in our regiment to be awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st Class, for his performance in this engagement.

I could quote many more examples of this kind from the history of the Soviet Army and Navy. They would show how professional competence helped our commanders secure victory over the enemy with minimum losses. It is inspiring to know that today our sons and grandsons are worthily

carrying on the tradition. Among them are Lieutenant-Colonel Kuznetsov, Hero of the Soviet Union, Rear-Admiral Poroshin, the first officer of the Soviet Navy to be awarded the Order for Service of the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces of all classes.

[Question] In what fields of knowledge must an officer, say, a lieutenant, a recent military school graduate, be competent?

Quite a few, I would say. Take a lieutenant who has completed a higher military school. He receives a diploma of a higher special military-educational establishment and the qualification of an engineer, depending on the arm of the service. In addition to thorough professional training, he is well versed in Marxist-Leninist philosophy, pedagogy, psychology, theory and history of military art, tactics, fire training, technology, higher mathematics, physics, chemistry. He is taught to operate a motor vehicle, armoured personnel carrier and tank, and he can fire practically any firearm. As a rule, he has a rating in some sport or another.

This is quite normal. During the four or five year training term at a higher military school the cadet studies a wide range of military, technical subjects and humanities in which he passes examinations. It should be mentioned that the faculty of military educational establishments are characterised by a high scholastic level. Many of the instructors have scientific degrees and titles in military, technological, philosophical and other sciences. The process of instruction is designed to reveal to the cadets the trends and tendencies in warfare and the opportunities open to newly-graduated lieutenants. It is believed that the lieutenant should be well prepared for his future. This future becomes the present immediately upon graduation from military school. The rank of an officer imposes on the former cadet a special responsibility. Figuratively speaking the knowledge he is equipped with forms the jumping-off ground for his assault on the heights of military skill.

[Question] Could you give an insight into the formative process in an officer? Is it possible to single out certain patterns here? What are the most distinguishing features of Soviet commanders?

I would like to start with the following. Success attends only those who display diligence, initiative, a creative approach, who surge forward, develop in themselves the spirit of independence, firm will power and organisational abilities and methodical skill in training and educating their subordinates. As I see it, these are the main qualities required in the formation of an officer at any post.

What qualities are most typical of Soviet officers? Addressing the 6th All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organisations, Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitry Fyodorovich Ustinov, Minister of Defence of the USSR, listed them in the following order: competence, an acute sense of the new, capability of assuming responsibility for the accomplishment of difficult missions, of discovering and supporting initiative on the part of subordinates, of mobilising the will and energy of the personnel. The Minister of Defence further said that the specifics of troop control made it necessary for a military leader of any rank to exhibit an ability to make split-second decisions and actions amidst tremendous moral, psychological and physical stresses.

My mentioning this is not fortuitous. We know how complicated and formidable the missions assigned to the Armed Forces of the USSR are. And they are coping with these missions. Their whole life and activities are geared to the demand of the 26th CPSU Congress reliably to safeguard the peaceful constructive labour of the Soviet people. This demand is particularly urgent in the present international situation which has been made extremely tense by the imperialist reactionaries, in the face of the sharply increased aggressiveness of the ultra-reactionaries led by the USA. The latter have staked on upsetting the military strategic balance that has taken shape between the world of socialism and that of imperialism. That is why the further building up of the USSR's defence capacity is an urgent objective need. The accomplishment of this task depends in no small degree on leading army and naval personnel.

Thanks to the concern displayed by the Communist Party and Soviet Government, the Armed Forces of the USSR have ideologically equipped and well trained officers, generals and admirals. Nine out of ten are members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Young Communist League, and seven out of ten have a higher military or special military education. The constantly raising level of technical equipment of the fighting services and arms calls for closer combination of command and engineering training of officers. To exploit the combat capabilities of modern military equipment to the maximum, the commander should be well equipped with engineering knowledge, too. The engineer in turn must be proficient in the fundamentals of organisation of combat and conduct of military operations. Such is the demand of the times.

[Question] Comrade General of the Army, on the basis of what you have said would it be correct to conclude that thorough political and professional training of Soviet officers who set a personal example to their subordinates, and their sense of responsibility enable them to carry out their missions?

That would be a valid conclusion. Back in 1918, when the Soviet Armed Forces were formed, Lenin said that only Red officers would command prestige among the soldiers and would help cement socialism in the army and that such an army would be invincible.

Life has proved these words to be sound. Soviet officers are inseparably bound with the people by common interests and intentions. They devote their knowledge, strength and energies to whatever cause the country has placed in their hands.

I cannot help recalling the events that took place in summer 1938 during the battles at Lake Hassan in the Far East, when the Japanese invaded Soviet territory. These events are particularly memorable, because, when I completed the Kharkov Armoured Forces School in 1938, I chose to serve in the Soviet Far East. I went through the "baptism of fire" as a tank platoon leader. Lieutenant Moshlyak shared the same experience then. When the battalion commander was wounded Moshlyak, a Communist, took over and led the assault on height Zaozyornaya under a storm of enemy fire. At a crucial moment the colour bearer was wounded. The Colours, the sacred emblem of the unit, fell out of the hands of the dying man. Lieutenant Moshlyak picked up the staff and, holding the Colours high above his head, was the first to set foot on the height. Though the valorous officer had been wounded in the head and the shoulder, he continued to lead the men. Lieutenant Moshlyak was honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for courage and heroism exhibited in action against the Japanese invaders.

Among those who took part in the battles near Lake Hassan were Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergei Leonidovich Sokolov, Hero of the Soviet Union, First Deputy Minister of Defence of the USSR, and Colonel-General of the Tank Forces David Abramovich Dragunsky, twice Hero of the Soviet Union. They fought as young commanders then.

There are many officers who have contributed bright chapters to the history of the Soviet Army. Guards Senior Lieutenant Alexander Gorovets performed a feat of valour in the Battle of Kursk in summer 1943. On June 6 a group of fighters under Senior Lieutenant Gorovets were sent on an interception mission against nazi bombers. The Soviet fighters engaged the Luftwaffe. One nazi vulture was shot down after another. With eight having been destroyed, Gorovets started to pursue the ninth. But at that moment he was attacked by four nazi fighters. Skillfully evading them, he shot one of them down. However, the nazi pilot manag-

ed to score a direct cannon shell hit which destroyed the Soviet fighter. Senior Lieutenant Gorovets was the only fighter pilot in the world to shoot down nine enemy planes in a single air engagement.

During the Great Patriotic War 7,150 officers, generals, admirals and marshals were honoured with the highest distinction—the title of Hero of the Soviet Union—for courage, heroism and combat skill displayed in action against the nazi invaders.

[Question] Comrade General of the Army, capitalist mass media constantly publish all sorts of fabrications about the Soviet Armed Forces. What is your comment on their efforts?

They are not new to the bourgeois propaganda machine, which has persistently tried to distort the historic mission of the Soviet Army and its role in the victory over nazi Germany and militarist Japan during the Second World War. It circulates all sorts of inventions about its social composition, principles of recruitment, training and education. It has spared no pains to pit officers against men and to misrepresent the relations between the various categories of servicemen belonging to various nations and nationalities inhabiting the USSR. Indulging in wishful thinking, our ideological opponents resort to lies, slander and deceit. However, facts have exposed their inventions.

The life and work of the Soviet Armed Forces are characterised by constant manifestation of humane, fraternal relations between the armed defenders of the country. Many examples could be quoted to this effect. In a critical situation Senior Lieutenant A. Vilbrantas hastened to the assistance of Sergeant P. Tsoi. Lieutenants L. Babich, P. Lainevoool, Junior Sergeant N. Popov and Private Z. Sukhashvili acted as blood donors to save the life of Private R. Usmanov.

I could add that friendship between the fighting men of various nationalities vividly manifests itself in the effort to implement the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress. Every Soviet serviceman is eager to score further achievements in combat training and political education and in raising the level of combat readiness.

When I headed a group of Soviet military specialists in Cuba, I heard many words of praise, admiration and gratitude addressed to them, patriots and internationalists. Fidel Castro said that all the freedom-loving peoples of the world regarded Soviet servicemen as a vivid model of boundless devotion to the great ideas of Lenin, fraternity and friendship of peoples. It would also be fair to say that all Soviet servicemen—from private to marshal—are distinguished for their broad outlook, excellent general education and professional competence. Both officers and men have common class origins, share common interests and aims. They are bound together by ties of army friendship and comradeship.

Comrade General of the Army, the Soviet people say that being an officer is a heroic career. It is not fortuitous, apparently, that even in peacetime many officers have been awarded Orders and medals. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred on some very distinguished officers.

Of course, it's not fortuitous. Even in peacetime military service puts men through tough tests. It places them in situations which call for maximum resourcefulness, imposing terrific mental and physical strain, requiring them to respond immediately and to take the only correct decision. The whole world knows Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin, officer, the man who blazed the trail into space, as a man of outstanding courage and valour.

He was followed by other cosmonauts of equal courage and valour. There are several dozen of them—officers and generals—who have been honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. This honour has been conferred twice on some of them. However, it was Gagarin's 108 minutes in space that ushered in the space age for mankind. And we are rightly proud of the fact that the trail to space was blazed by a son of the Soviet people, a Communist and officer of our glorious Armed Forces.

Today feats of valour are performed not only in space. Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Mikhailovich Potekhinsky performed an exploit on the Earth. While serving in the engineers he repeatedly came face to face with death in the depths of the earth, near tracks or on the banks of quiet barely noticeable rivulets. Once in Byelorussia he had to destroy nazi ammunition dumps that had remained from the war. He had similar experiences in the Transcarpathian Region and other places. His encounters with death have been marked with the Order of the Badge of Honour and Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Labour. They are tokens of courage exhibited in fighting death. He has also been awarded the Order of the Red Banner. Vladimir Potekhinsky, a Communist, received this award for courage and valour displayed in the accomplishment of an important mission.

People are right when they say that being an officer is a heroic career. The biography of today's officer is being written in the field of exercises, in the sky above the Homeland, in ocean cruises, and combat alert duty of missile complexes. The defence capacity of the country, the level of combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces depend on his proficiency, efficiency and selfless performance of duty to the Homeland.

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ARMED FORCES

INCREASED EXACTINGNESS, DISCIPLINE STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Commander's Exactingness and Discipline"]

[Text] Our party is making the comprehensive strengthening of discipline one of the major State missions. It has special importance to the army and navy. High military discipline is a major condition for combat effectiveness and constant combat readiness of the troops. The exactingness of commanders and chiefs, provided by the Party and State as major rights, have a decisive role in supporting high organization and rigid regulatory order. Regulations obligate each of them to strive decisively and firmly for the maintenance of military discipline and order by all personnel, and not to leave a single misdemeanor without action as well as to skillfully combine and correctly apply persuasive and compulsory measures.

The essence of our military discipline is in the conscious, conscientious relationship of each soldier to fulfilling his military duty to the Motherland and his responsibilities to the service. This requires the commander to actively educate high moral qualities and an honest and earnest relationship to the service in personnel during the process of entire service. It is important to strive so that subordinates fully realize the socio-political significance of the demands made on them and the necessity of carrying out unquestioningly orders and instructions, precisely and on time. Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, addressing Party veterans, noted that in discipline much depends on well-placed ideological-educational work. The demand to strengthen discipline must not be understood as being merely unrelenting administrative control.

A simplified approach to the work of strengthening discipline unavoidably leads to serious errors. One of the letter to the editors reported that in the sub-unit commanded by Captain V. Lotyshev (Baltic Military District) necessary regulatory procedures were missing. The commander himself is often rude to subordinates. Our correspondent visited the garrison from which the letter was sent and the facts brought out in the letter were confirmed. What came to light was that the reasons for the violations of military discipline in the sub-unit were that Lotyshev didn't work enough on educating his subordinates and poorly relied on his officers, sergeants and the community. He was abrupt with people. All of this had an adverse effect on the state of affairs in the sub-unit.

Working with people is a complicated business. Formalism and callousness are not tolerated in such work. However, here and there formalism has been observed. Some officers consider that to maintain a high level of discipline and an atmosphere of exactingness all they have to do is strictly maintain subordination, and everything else will follow. Subordination in relationships among military personnel is certainly necessary. But [officers] should not partition themselves off from subordinates, but should be closer to them and to study people closely by personal contact with them, and combine high demands and principles. Along with this, there should be intolerance to deficiencies combined with faith and respect for subordinates and constant concern for them. This approach creates lasting authority for the commander.

While displaying exactingness the commander must show restraint and respect the personal dignity of subordinates. As experience shows, one does not get stable results in strengthening discipline by shouting and rudeness. But at the same time military discipline ought to be strengthened decisively and fundamentally, without any kind of indulgence.

Indulgence and inconsistency in applying regulations is one of the serious reasons affecting the state of discipline. Not thinking about the consequences, some commanders show unequal exactingness and display preference and dislike toward subordinates. And this unavoidably affects the morale atmosphere in the military collective. A commander doesn't have to have "sons and stepsons." Any unwarranted indulgence or cavil causes a loss to the educational work with people. In short, a commander's demands are effective when they are consistent and just and are derived from an interest for our total endeavor and has a strict regulatory character.

The glances of subordinates are always directed at the commander. In small and large matters, everyone strives to measure up to him. His efforts in strengthening discipline depend a lot on how his words support his deeds and on the demands he imposes on himself. He must serve for subordinates as the example of strict compliance to Soviet laws and the norms of communist morals and he must irreproachably fulfill the demands of the military oath, military regulations and his own service obligation. And the higher the post held by the leader, the stricter his demands for himself must be.

Daily strengthening discipline, the commander must continuously rely on his deputies, assistants, party and komsomol organizations and military collectives. However not all [commanders] behave in this way in practice. And that is why chiefs of service and engineers often remain on the sideline of educational work. Yet it is known that in units and sub-units where unity and unanimity has not been reached on educational measures, on the requirements for all officers, and for the party and komsomol aktivs, this is visibly reflected at the military discipline level.

Senior chiefs, staffs and political agencies must study thoroughly and comprehensively how officers subordinate to them demonstrate exactingness, and must teach them to work daily with the political, military, moral and legal education of personnel. The [subordinate officers] must also be taught

to rely skillfully on the party and komsomol organizations in their activities, and to fully use their influence to successfully resolve the tasks of further strengthening military discipline. A commander's skill to maintain strict military order and a favorable socio-psychological climate in the collective should be mandatorily taken into account when tallying up results of competition, certification and promotion to a higher rank.

The new training year is beginning in the army and navy. It is beginning in a complicated international environment characterized by a further increase of aggression by the American imperialists and an augmentation of NATO's military preparation. This requires that Soviet soldiers increase further to their revolutionary vigilance, multiply their training efforts and to strengthen military discipline, which is one of the decisive conditions of high military readiness in the army and navy.

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ARMED FORCES

LACK OF WORK DISCIPLINE FOUND IN REGISTRATION, ENLISTMENT OFFICE

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Justice A. Sadolin, assistant trial judge advocate, Red Banner Kiev Military District: "The 'Invulnerable' Absentee, The Commander and the Law"]

[Text] The peoples court had in due course reinstated a driver for one of the rayon military commissariats in Dnepropetrovsk in his position, a driver who had been dismissed, as it stated in the military commissar's order, "for systematic violations of work discipline." Reinstatement of a man to his position within a collective where he had in fact not distinguished himself by hard work or good organization set people to talking. Just try now to keep people interested in maintaining their refusal to tolerate any deviation from established rules, you'd hear some say.

But we're not going to be leaping to any conclusions here. Because it was precisely to this refusal to allow people to get away with violations of work discipline and to maintain this attitude on an everyday basis that the people's court essentially summoned the senior officials and all workers of the military commissariat. In justifying its decision it pointed to two mistakes that had been made in dealing with this driver. First, no proof of any "systematic violation" of work discipline on his part was ever established in court. Yes, people said he was discourteous with his fellow workers and superiors and that he missed a lot of work. But the question remained of just who he was being rude to if he wasn't showing up for work? The case hadn't been made here. For the fact is that neither in the orders of the military commissariat nor in the records of meetings of the trade union or the trade union committee was the name of a worker who was discourteous to his colleagues and superiors or who had an absenteeism problem even mentioned.

This sort of approach to the maintenance of work discipline permitted, alas, still another mistake, which the people's court also called attention to. In coming to its decision to dismiss this worker, the rayon military commissar did not think it necessary to coordinate with the trade union committee.

So the court was concerning itself not with any weakening of the law as applied to people who violate the rules governing work discipline, but rather with the need to motivate society-at-large to begin to deal with the problem more effectively.

But instances like this in which commanders and other senior personnel attach such low priority to the day-to-day effort to tighten discipline, an effort conforming strictly to the framework of the law, are, unfortunately, not all that infrequent.

P. Strus, a worker for a plant fabricating reinforced concrete products, was, and we'll put it bluntly here, a truly malicious violator of workplace discipline. He could lay around and drink alcohol on the job and sometimes not even show up. There's no way in the world you could say he had a clean work record. So it was entirely to be expected that when Lieutenant Colonel-Engineer N. Kozorezov, the plant manager, put the question of dismissing Strus from his job before the trade union committee he got unanimous support.

The only problem was that even a gross violator of the rules governing on-the-job discipline like this was removed from his work collective for only a brief period of time. It wasn't long before he was to be seen back on the job. It turns out that the plant had rehired him. Because of a labor shortage. It should really go without saying that this kind of inconsistency, too, is a detriment to the maintenance of strong workplace discipline.

In this case, incidentally, the offender still didn't last much longer in the collective. The other workers in the group had such a negative attitude toward him that Strus himself finally requested to be dismissed. But can this sort of an outcome be considered normal? I really don't think so. For the fact is that when a chronic violator of workplace discipline like this is dismissed at his own request it means that somewhere he's going to be received as somebody with nothing but the most glowing of records. So, when it comes to efforts to maintain good work discipline among those for whom he is responsible, each supervisor must always observe not only the letter, but the spirit of our labor laws as well.

It is precisely this kind of approach that we find characteristic, for example, of another military enterprise manager, Colonel (Reserve) S. Zakitnyy. These very same questions concerning what to do with violators of workplace discipline, for example, will be considered here in relation to other factors—work organization, for example, or their general way of life. The plant has created a social department of personnel headed by communist N. Avramenko, and all labor disputes, particularly if they involve the possible dismissal of a worker, will be resolved here first. The result has been that disputes like this are arising less and less frequently now and that labor turnover has fallen four-fold over the past three years.

I think it would be appropriate to point out here that our Soviet law always takes into account the interests of both society and the individual. So while Article 40 of the USSR Constitution declares that all Soviet citizens enjoy the right to work and establishes precise guarantees of this most important human right, Article 60 defines conscientious labor for the good of society and the maintenance of workplace discipline as both an obligation and a matter of honor for each able-bodied citizen. So, that a person be master of his own fate and that his on-the-job performance be in accord with the common interest are of equal importance to us. On the other hand, any indulgence of a person who violates workplace discipline is just as unacceptable as arbitrary dismissal of a citizen from his job.

By adhering to both the spirit and the principles of our laws, the commander or supervisor can also help insure the maintenance of proper work organization and prevent other violations of the law. This, unfortunately, cannot be said in the case of subunit commander Major Ye. Anisenkov. There were a number of legal provisions he was simply ignorant of, while others he just ignored altogether: who cares what the law says, he'll say, the circumstances in this instance call for entirely different decisions.

Precisely because this was his approach to a situation, Major Anisenkov right from the very beginning thought it possible to relieve V. Tishechko, a fitter, from his immediate responsibilities. For the fact is, you see, that this particular fitter was unusually good at getting hold of a variety of construction materials. But then a little later Tishechko was offered even greater opportunities to demonstrate his unique "abilities": he was named to a position involving the discharge of financial responsibilities.

"We couldn't find any better candidate," Lieutenant Colonel declared in explanation of this transfer of the fitter.

This move, however, was in immediate violation of two provisions of law. First, the new position can be occupied only by an individual with the requisite education, which Tishechko did not have. And second, as far as Tishechko himself is concerned, there is the decision of the people's court prohibiting him from assuming any position involving financial or economic-administrative responsibilities. So it is clear that in this instance the low level of workplace discipline within the collective was due in no small degree to the disrespect for the law shown by people in positions of authority.

Stronger socialist work discipline is a most important precondition for success in fulfilling plans for economic and social development, improving the efficiency of the national economy, strengthening the foundations of the socialist way of life, intensifying the labor and political activity of the masses and for improving the functioning of the democratic system. A great many concrete steps have been taken to achieve these objectives, to include the introduction of changes in and additions to provisions of our labor law. The Soviet people have greeted these modifications with deep satisfaction. It is important to remember, however, that the law lives only when it is observed and observed always and by everyone. We will then see fuller realization of both the interests of society and the rights of the citizen, with not a single violator of labor discipline remaining invulnerable to the force of the law.

8963

CSO: 1801/191

ARMED FORCES

SERVICEMEN'S OFF-BASE CONDUCT DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General V. Serykh, commandant, Moscow city, by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhitarenko; date and place not given: "With Honor and Dignity"]

[Text] A soldier is walking down the street.... Passersby admire his uniform and military bearing and see in him a representative of our heroic Armed Forces. It is both an honor and a responsibility to wear the military uniform, which symbolizes valor and courage and loyalty to the heroic traditions of our armed forces. The serviceman stands as an exemplar of discipline, proper appearance and bearing. As underlined at the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum, our people, quite properly in fact, refer to our armed forces as a school of courage, industry and high moral standards.

It is only to be expected that letters from readers would raise questions concerning the proper conduct of our military servicemen outside their unit areas and their adherence to regulations governing saluting and other military courtesies. People have pointed to many good examples. At the same time, however, they observe that on the streets of our cities and towns we will still encounter the military serviceman who will not distinguish himself by any exemplary behavior or impeccable appearance. At the request of our correspondent, Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhitarenko, the military commandant of Moscow city comments here on letters we have received from our readers.

[Question] Comrade lieutenant general, what do you make of the very fact that readers are paying attention to these questions?

[Answer] I believe these letters are yet another convincing demonstration of the love with which our whole people embrace the defenders of the motherland. There's no doubting, of course, that they also prompt each one of our servicemen to give though once again to the great personal responsibility they bear for the performance of their military duties and for making sure that they always carry the proud title of "soldier of the land of soviets" with dignity and honor. These

letters also call for particular attention on the part of the people in our garrisons and commandant's offices responsible for maintaining tight discipline among our servicemen in public facilities and on the street.

[Question] Our readers Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Kuznetsov, Captain V. Korotkov and Senior Lieutenant M. Kartsev among others emphasize in their letters the special, so to speak, status of the military commandant's office in the capital. While they understand the role it plays in maintaining order and strict military discipline among servicemen on the street and in public facilities, a number of comrades call attention at the same time to what they believe is the excessive strictness of the garrison patrols. What is your view in this connection?

[Answer] I believe I would not be mistaken in saying that all Soviet people would want the Moscow garrison to be exemplary in all respects. This would also include exemplariness from the point of view of maintaining order, good conduct on the part of military personnel on the street, in public facilities etc. This is entirely understandable, what with the fact that a soldier assigned to the capital garrison is, we could say, on view before the whole country. It's easy enough to see without my explaining it what a great responsibility this imposes upon the people in the Moscow military commandant's office and what demands this makes upon our garrison patrols.

Let's look, for example, at this small detail. A fairly large number of our servicemen from other garrisons can be found in transit through Moscow on any given day. Our garrison patrols are responsible for them as well. Now here you'll occasionally hear complaints about how strict our patrols are: what trivial offenses they take note of, people will say. In the meantime, however, analysis of our patrol experience shows that cases of a "lack of understanding" of the exactingness shown by the patrols are usually the products of inadequate education on the part of the individual serviceman and failure to keep in mind the indisputable truth that even the slightest deviation from regulations governing proper wear of the military uniform cannot be permitted. But patrols will nevertheless frequently encounter various devices employed by those who want to "modernize" the military uniform, to include some which distort the normal appearance of the serviceman. Our patrols cannot, of course, overlook these things. And we don't limit ourselves simply to dealing with the offender himself. We also inform the commander of the garrison he came from of the facts involved. Because the truth is that every time something like this happens it's a condemnation of the commanders and other senior personnel involved. For the fact is, of course, that if internal unit administration is properly organized, you're not going to find a serviceman on the other side of the checkpoint out of uniform. Analysis also shows that the conduct of our servicemen in public facilities and on the street is a direct reflection of the educational and indoctrinational efforts put forth by the senior officers and the party and Komsomol organizations of a unit as well as the programs conducted directly within the individual company and battery. I think it is only fitting to raise the question of the special attention senior personnel should give servicemen going on the road on official business or on leave and who will be going through the capital. I think it would be particularly useful to remind them as they prepare to leave that their presence in the capital of our motherland imposes upon every serviceman the obligation to take particular pains with his appearance and to be especially mindful of his conduct.

Now to get back to the idea that our patrols are "too strict," I would like to point out that strict adherence to the provisions of the laws and military regulations constitutes the very basis of their military duties. Being rigorous in the requirements they impose upon the quality of their own military performance, they must also stand as exemplars of proper bearing, courtesy and good judgement.

[Question] Colonel General (Ret) G. Vorontsov cites the following example in his letter. A group of soldiers and NCOs arriving at the Kursk terminal were noticeably failing to maintain good formation discipline. Not only that, some of them were wearing the field uniform, while others, including the man in charge of the group, were wearing the service uniform. "This creates the impresssion that these people haven't become accustomed to military discipline," the writer concludes.

[Answer] The incident at the Kursk terminal has not been without its consequences for the superiors in Moscow of the group of servicemen he refers to. We have to assume that the unit they're assigned to has already drawn the appropriate conclusions.

Continuing now with the notion of formation discipline, I would like to call attention to the important role military rituals play in the education of our military personnel. I have not once, for example, found any troops participating in a military parade in Red Square among any detained by our patrols. People value highly this honored right they are given to participate in these parades, and they always try to comply with the requirements of rules and regulations governing conduct in public places.

I am convinced that military rituals help displine our military servicemen, help them develop a sense of responsibility for insuring strict adherence to the norms of army life, to include, of course, those occasions on which they find themselves outside their unit or garrison areas. But unfortunately, however, we will not always find the rich arsenal of our military rituals exploited to the greatest possible effectiveness. Some of our commanders and other senior personnel are adopting only the most perfunctory approach here in connection with the performance of these rituals. And I might add in particular at this point that, as it turned out, it was precisely this attitude toward military rituals that prevailed in the unit the soldiers who failed to show themselves in the best possible light at the capital's Kursk station were assigned to.

I believe every military man will agree: the military life in all its aspects must contribute to the effort to instill in our service personnel a respect for the military uniform. I have in front of me here a letter from a former military serviceman, G. Klimentsov. He recalls the responsible attitude his subunit starshina demonstrated toward servicemen leaving the unit on leave. He not only required them to have clean service blouse undercollars and shoes and buttons polished to a high shine, he would also give them a little test of sorts. "We were allowed to leave," G. Klimentsov writes, "only after there was no doubt whatsoever that we understood thoroughly what the rules of conduct in town were."

Regulations in force today, too, require the same attitude toward the preparation of military personnel leaving the regiment area. The experienced starshina will not allow any of his men to cast suspicion upon the good name of the military collective by improper conduct outside the unit area or slovenly appearance.

And here's what we hear from A. Markov, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War. He writes that even during the fierce battles raging in the struggle to liberate Hungary from the grip of the German fascist aggressors, his division commander, Guards Major General Seregin could find time to "inspect the appearance" of his soldiers. He would impose severe penalties upon his officers if, for example, any of their men were found to be out of uniform, which included the wearing of improper footwear.

Trivial? No, the wartime experience provides convincing evidence that the attention commanders give to the military appearance of their men constitutes one of the important factors contributing to success on the battlefield. We find this point brought out as well in letters from K. Vasil'yev, also a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, and Colonel (Reserve) V. Preobrazhenskiy.

[Question] Letters from Guards Colonel I. Denisov, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) M. Lebedev, Warrant Officer (Reserve) A. Karpenko and many other of our readers point out that the way our active-duty service personnel conduct themselves will depend upon more than simply how demanding their immediate superiors and officials of the military commandant's offices are with them. What is important here is that all servicemen, including those who, with respect to official status or military rank, are not the immediate superiors not allow themselves to overlook or ignore any deviations from regulation requirements.

[Answer] Well put. There are unfortunately instances in which a serviceman in town somewhere will be engaging in conduct which violates regulations in full view of an officer, but the officer will ignore it entirely as though he's got more urgent business to tend to. Our patrol pointed out an instance of this kind of conduct only the other day to a Senior Lieutenant K. Voytenko. The officer was taken by surprise by this turn of events. It was as though he had forgotten the provision of the regulations that gives military personnel of higher rank the authority to reprimand lower-ranking servicemen and direct that they maintain proper discipline, be in order in public, correct uniform deficiencies or observe the regulations governing military courtesies and conduct. Junior personnel are required to comply with these directions without question. Each and every officer must actively participate in this effort to insure tight military discipline and proper conduct on the part of our servicemen.

[Question] Nevertheless, comrade lieutenant general, wouldn't you have to agree that we need to see even more vigorous efforts in this connection on the part of officials in our military commandant's offices, people who are responsible for the maintenance of order and proper military discipline among our servicemen in public facilities and on the street? What are the problems involved here?

[Answer] The requirements the part has outlined to guide communists, as well as the whole Soviet people, in the campaign for better organization and efficiency and tighter state and labor discipline apply fully to personnel of our military commandant's offices as well.

I should say at this point that the overwhelming majority of the people we have in the capital commandant's office are people with tact, good judgement and a deep sense of personal responsibility. We do, however, have some disappointing exceptions. For example, we had to recommend one of our people for reassignment not

long ago. He had gotten to the point where he was confusing exactingness with petty carping and rudeness. As it turned out, he had already demonstrated these qualities in a previous position. The problem was that nobody paid any attention to it in time, so now we had to remedy the situation....

By the very nature of his work, an officer from the commandant's office must stand as an example in all things, to include, of course, the ability to conduct oneself properly when dealing with an offender who has gotten out of order in public.

[Question] Guards Senior Lieutenant V. Kurdyukov, comrades G. Ladnyy, L. Chimirev, P. Ivanov and a number of other readers are concerned by the fact that in portraying the military serviceman, both films and the printed press permit these portrayals to contain deviations from regulation requirements. They thereby, as one letter puts it, do a disservice to garrison duty....

[Answer] Well, in this case they're not just doing a disservice to garrison duty. Taking "liberties" like this also does harm to our overall effort to educate and indoctrinate armed forces personnel as well as the servicemen of the future. A few months ago patrols detained a soldier whose haircut was far from being within regulation limits. In reply to the reprimand from the patrol the soldier insisted that his haircut was exactly like one in a photograph of servicemen in one of the newspapers.... And then he actually produced the photograph—as it turned out, he had been carrying it around with him just in case.... Now after an encounter like this you just try to convince somebody that he's wrong and that the people from the commandant's office are not demanding anything of him from the realm of the supernatural.

Shortly before this incident, the Central Television's First Program showed a film in which even the commanding officer of a border post turned out to be a disappointing example of a free-thinking approach to the wearing of the military uniform. When they want to treat a military-patriotic theme, I would like to see the people in our mass communications media keep in mind the critical importance of such a central facet of the military life as the standards, conduct and appearance our military personnel are expected to maintain.

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ARMED FORCES

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON REAR-ADMIRAL VASILY POROSHIN

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 12, Dec 83 pp 22-23

[Article by Captain 2nd Rank S. Bystrov]

[Text]

Rear-Admiral Vasily Poroshin is well aware of the spirit of the times, especially when it concerns the navy. Although he himself practised firing long ago, his subordinates like to go to sea for fire missions under his command. This is because they have much confidence in him as a commander. They know only too well that Vasily Poroshin possesses high professional skill and is always ready to share his experience. As a student, he studied persistently, thus developing his ability to obtain sound knowledge.

Vasily was born in 1938 in Petrova Rechka, in eastern Kazakhstan. At the time this place was a woodcutters' temporary settlement, so it was not marked on the map. When calling his birthplace to mind Vasily still sees the white frames of houses built from tar-trickling logs, age-old fir-trees fencing a small group of houses and the blue Altai skies over his head.

It was a rule for the Poroshins to study. When Vasily was a six-year-old boy, his elder brother Ivan entered a military flying school.

At secondary school Vasily showed an aptitude for mathematics. The youth's favourite teacher, Maria Kuznetsova (later on awarded the title of Merited Teacher of the Russian Federation), advised him to go to the university. His elder brother also insisted on this, proceeding from Vasily's vocation.

However, the younger brother's resolute decision was to go to study

at the old naval school on the Neva River.

Ivan would say that there is no need to seek romanticism at sea. As if proving that he was correct, Vasily failed to pass his entrance exams. But he did not give up his dream. He began to work so as to take the examinations again the next year. Nobody could even suppose that this ordinary lad from the Altai would graduate from the Frunze Higher Naval School summa cum laude and that his name would be inscribed in golden letters among those of other medal winners on the school's board of honour.

Poroshin studied well, receiving only top marks. Every year he was elected secretary of the Komsomol bureau. He was also the first among his mates to be admitted to the ranks of the Communist Party. Everything seemed to be going fine with him. However, the school was visited by a group of artillery commanders authorised to activate the rocket forces. And Poroshin turned out to be among those graduates appointed to serve with this newly formed fighting service. As a gold medal winner, he was given the opportunity to choose his military unit number. Although he was very much disappointed by the fact that a naval career was now out of the question, he became keen on studying the new weapons. Vasily distinguished himself as a promising officer and in two years was sent to continue his studies.

Poroshin entered a military academy, where he was the only student in the rank of lieutenant. Despite his youth he soon gained authority and was appointed section commander. And here too, although he was younger than his subordinates and had a lower military rank, he carried authority with them.

Vasily made great strides during his five-year term of study at the academy. He was invited to remain at this educational establishment as a post-graduate of the automatics chair, but he declined the offer. Being true to his calling, he wrote a letter to the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union, S. Gorshkov, requesting to be transferred to the navy.

Poroshin graduated at the academy with honour. He was presented his diploma by the Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces Marshal of the Soviet Union N. Krylov, who jokingly regretted the young man's loyalty to the navy. At the same time he could not help expressing his admiration for the senior lieutenant.

Ten years had already passed since Vasily's first attempt to enter a naval school. Now Lieutenant-Commander Poroshin was to begin his service in the navy at the age of 28 as a section chief, on a diesel missile submarine. As to his mates, some of them had already been close to being appointed to the post of ship's CO. But this did not bother Poroshin a bit. He was enjoying his long-awaited life on the ship under Captain 2nd Rank Oleg Krestovsky, to whom he felt deep gratitude.

During his first cruise Poroshin was entrusted to carry out a bridge watch. The weather frequently changed, and the officer had to cope with many difficulties. However, he did not lose heart, showing high spirits and industry. This was duly appreciated by his CO.

The weather was stormy. Secured with safety lines both the ship's CO and the watch officer were showered more than once with icy salt water.

Covering a cigarette with his palm the ship's CO asked Poroshin what had made him come to the navy. The officer answered half in jest that evidently it had been preordained that he should serve on a submarine. He also added that as an academy graduate he would prefer a missile nuclear-powered vessel.

There was a long pause. Then Krestovsky approved of his studying at the academy. However, he

stressed that only a man who served in the navy could be moulded as a commander. By the way, he also said that Poroshin was fit for this kind of service.

Vasily was greatly impressed by these words. Meanwhile Krestovsky went on saying that to be a commander is a most glorious task for a naval officer, and to groom such a commander is a most difficult job for the navy.

Krestovsky's forecasts did not come to pass overnight. Eventually Poroshin was offered the post of diesel submarine CO. But he refused, hoping to be appointed to a nuclear-powered submarine. Finally his dream was realised, but only partially: he was appointed assistant executive officer of a nuclear-powered submarine.

During his first cruise on the submarine, Poroshin passed examinations in the command guidance of a ship and proved to be an experienced seaman. After his return to the base, Vasily was offered the post of executive officer on an analogous vessel. However, he felt he lacked the experience and, to everyone's surprise, declined the offer. He was again offered this post less than a year later. The unit commander, Captain 1st Rank V. Korobov (now vice-admiral, Chief of Staff of the Northern Fleet), studied thoroughly Poroshin's file and efficiency reports. In conclusion he predicted that Poroshin would be promoted to the post of ship's CO in no longer than a year.

Poroshin smiled back, hardly believing his ears. But Korobov turned out to be correct. Within a year Captain 2nd Rank Poroshin was appointed a nuclear-powered submarine CO. A year later he was awarded the "For Service of the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" Order 3rd Class for his achievements as a commander.

Poroshin's first practice firing was a success. During the exercise the situation was critical and highly dynamic, which made Vasily do without sleep for two days. He looked tired and the senior commander, who was present at the exercise, suggested he take a nap. But all of a sudden a surface target was reported by sonarmen.

Poroshin began to manoeuvre the ship in order to assume a more advantageous position. Only then did he order that a salvo be fired. The sonarman reported the target hit. Those of the crew present at the central station congratulated the commander on his first victory.

Then he practised a lot of firing with torpedoes and missiles. He was lucky and invariably showed high results. His successes were explained by his professional maturity. So, nobody was surprised at his rapid promotion.

Vasily Poroshin trained many proficient naval officers to serve on a submarine. He took care to provide a business-like atmosphere for his subordinates so that they could work creatively in an atmosphere of mutual trust and thus fully reveal their abilities.

During one cruise, when Poroshin's young colleagues worked on probation, he was awarded the "For Service of the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" Order 2nd Class. Last year he received his third decoration 1st Class in Moscow, thus becoming the first naval officer honoured with the title of full bearer of the "For Service of the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" Order.

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CSO: 1812/111

GROUND FORCES

MOUNTAIN FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Colonel V. Omel'chenko, senior officer of the okrug Directorate of Combat Training and Military Educational Institutions, and Lieutenant Colonel A. Alyab'yev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Turkestan Military District: "The Mountains are Near"]

[Text] A reinforced tank battalion under the command of Captain A. Anfimov confidently developed an offensive in the foothills. The tanks moved swiftly, conducting fire from the march. The "enemy" hastily streamed back into the mountains. It seemed that the tank attack was predetermined. But the defense of the opposing side proved to be deeply echeloned. The principal part of the fire means was concentrated not in the flat terrain, as the battalion commander had surmised, but in the slopes of the commanding heights.

As it was to be expected, the tank attack soon came to a halt. Captain Anfimov had to commit the second echelon to battle. The company which Senior Lieutenant A. Isayev commanded, attacked the "enemy" directly on the mountain slopes.

Then the unforeseen started. Many targets in the multi-layered defense of the "enemy" appearing in the tankers' path remained unhit. The tempo of the attackers' assault sharply decreased. For some time communication was lost with the company under the command of Senior Lieutenant Isayev. His combat vehicles crawled along the slopes, placing the sides under fire of the "enemy". Individual tanks stopped altogether. The driver-mechanics were unable to overcome the mountain obstacles. In a word, the tank attack in the mountains did not succeed.

Combat in the mountains... It is characterized by an entire set of peculiarities. It can be said without exaggeration that the ability of personnel of units and subunits to operate successfully in the mountains is one of the factors determining the level of their combat readiness. The concluding exercises, occurring at the finish of the past training year clearly confirmed this law. In them the Turkestan troops displayed heightened combat skill, including mountain warfare. But there are still many unresolved questions.

Let's take, as an example, the okrug mountain training center. All conditions for exercises in mountain training, in the subunits' complement, and training facilities responding to the demands of the guiding documents, were created here. Units and subunits present at the training center receive a wonderful opportunity to conduct tactical training, combat firing, and tactical exercises including those with combat firing. In training facilities, special exercises of firing infantry weapons and BMP and tank armament can be mastered. It would seem that every visit to the mountain training center must come as a wonderful school of mountain training for personnel. But how is it, now and then, in practice?

Training and tactical exercises conducted in the mountains in the concluding stage of the past training year showed that in individual cases there was an underestimation of mountain training not in full measure fulfilling the requirements of guiding documents. One of these requirements consists of the fact that as is known, a certain amount of training and exercises with subunits is conducted at night in very rugged and virtually inaccessible terrain. Now and then it happens that the mountains, it is said, are near but the personnel operate in level conditions. Thus in the unit which we were talking about initially, exercises in mountain training, in the course of the whole year, were very few. Moreover, they were conducted on low methodological level and without sufficient material provisions. The majority of subunits could not attend the mountain training center. But a trip there was provided for. This of course tells on the whole verification. The battalion commanded by Captain Anfimov, as did the regiment as a whole, displayed weak schooling in mountain training.

The case is somewhat different in the Nth Tank Regiment. Remoteness and severe climatic conditions place their mark on the entire training process. However, here they are not used to referring to difficulty. At the initiative of communist Lieutenant Colonel F. Faizulin, they built a special area for personnel mountain training. He, for example, permitted tankers, not wasting time on unnecessary dislocations, to fulfill combat vehicle driver training in alpine conditions and to conduct firing at targets placed on the heights and in canyons. Sufficient attention was given here also to questions of working out cooperation with subunits of other branch forces--motorized rifle, artillery. Therefore it was not by accident that this unit, according to the results of present exercises, came out in one of the foremost places in the okrug and completely fulfilled the socialist obligation. Clearly the new training year as well has started there in an organized manner.

Many other examples of responsible, creative attitude towards perfecting mountain training can be given. I would like to mention that contribution made by an officer of the okrug Directorate of Combat Training and Military Educational Institutions, Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhernosekov, and trainers in alpine activities, serving in the Soviet Army, G. Kalinin and S. Sergeyev.

Combat operations in the mountains afford the officers a mass of specific questions. Let's take, as an example, the ability to control subunits in a dynamic, rapidly-changing situation, characteristic of operations in the mountains. In organizing for combat the commander can not fail to consider that a subunit, most likely, will have to operate out of contact with the main forces, without so-called close communication with his neighbors; that it will have to transfer from one form of combat to another. Firm direction, efficient coordination with attached subunits, including that with airborne troops and flanking detachments, etc. is important here. In a word, the officers need special knowledge of the field of mountain training. This is developed by indepth study of guiding documents, training regulations, and foremost experience.

In directing the okrug combat training and higher educational institutions, no small effort is given to raising, figuratively speaking, the mountain "qualifications" of officers. Along with the organization of tactical-special and command and staff training, and a collection of directions by the officers, a set of textbooks on mountain training was developed for motorriflemen, tankers, and troops of other branches. How were they used in the forces, in particular in exercises of commander's training. Recently we asked this of tank battalion commanders, Majors N. Vedenyapin and A. Belkin. The officers, in reply, merely shrugged their shoulders. It appeared that not only they, but other commanders as well did not look at these books. It was explained that they had received them in the unit, but then hid them in the safe. There is, of course, in this also a share of guilt of the textbook authors themselves and officers of the okrug staff. Perhaps there are not enough only to publish this or that work and circulate it in the unit or subunit. Efficient, systematic control for their use in the forces is needed, so that they do not lie, as it is called, as dead weight in staff bookcases, but "work" toward the quality of training.

Contemporary warfare does not tolerate pattern, and a pattern is twice as bad for operations in the mountains. It is necessary, in this connection, to stress that success in the mountains accompanies he who is better prepared, skillfully uses special equipment, has endurance and is resourceful. In one case it is necessary to attack the enemy from the march, utilizing for this the area relief, unoccupied intervals, and open flanks in the defense; in another--to bypass and avoid battle in order suddenly to deliver a decisive blow there, where he does not expect it. One has to operate not only in vehicles, but mostly dismounted. Such a particular of the tactics of combat in mountains, makes the problem of individual mountain training of the troops particularly real.

Let's refer to such an example. A company, under the command of Senior Lieutenant P. Sergeyev, organized as a battalion, entered battle in combat vehicles and at first successfully developed the offensive. However, in the depth of the "enemy" defense, the motorriflemen encountered strong resistance. The battalion commander understood that the defense could not be penetrated with a frontal attack. He decided to send the subordinates

of officer Sergeyev around, in order to strike the "enemy" strong points on the heights from the rear, in response to the arising situation. The company personnel had to dismount for storming the steep summit. However, they could not accomplish the plan of the battalion commander. It turned out that practically none of the troops were in condition to conquer the summit, none had the experience of alpinists.

Perfection of individual mountain training of those serving in the military is determined largely by the level of qualification, in the given question, of the exercise directors, and first of all, of the subunit commanders. Much depends also on the mountain training instructors who are not in the units.

One cannot but talk about the fact that now and then they use trained instructors in the units not for that which they are assigned, and they infrequently conduct exercises in mountain training. Often they only demonstrate their skills in show exercises and commander's gatherings, but in the course of daily military training they forget about them. Such a situation, of course, cannot be tolerated.

One of the most important tasks confronting the forces in the new training year is to improve the field training of personnel. We are talking about skillful, decisive actions of personnel in the mountains, and in other special conditions, with the effective application of new tactical methods, combat equipment and arms. The improvement of mountain training is one of the major directions of socialist competition of okrug troops. Learning to conduct combat operations in the mountains more effectively means raising still higher the combat readiness of units and subunits.

12198

CSO: 1801/169

GROUND FORCES

REGIMENT LACKS DISCIPLINE, FAILS COMPETITION

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Captain V. Drovosekov, Northern Group of Forces]

[Text] This Guards Tank Regiment failed to fulfill its competition obligations this past training year. One of the basic reasons was the low level of military discipline in the individual sub-units. This fact became the object of a strict, impartial discussion at the Komsomol election meeting. As speeches stressed, the VLKSM [All-Union Lenin Young Communist League] Organization was not a reliable aid to the commander in strengthening regulatory order and creating a healthy moral atmosphere in the sub-units. Many komsomol members were among those that did not distinguish themselves by setting the necessary example in a business and deed, diligence and conscientiousness in fulfilling their service obligations. Frankly speaking, the VLKSM Committee did not work well. Moreover, its now former BLKSM secretary, Guards Captain Vladimir Koryakin, on the eve of this meeting ended up himself among those who violated discipline.

A year ago Vladimir Koryakin and members of the committee were filled with interesting ideas and initiatives. It appeared that the regimental komsomols would be assured of a life filled with notable activities. But it soon became apparent that the activists had everything done well only in words and on paper. They loudly promised from the rostrum to give battle to those who violated discipline, they urged all to carry on the laborious work with those who do not value the honor of the collective. In short, there was more than enough noise.

But at the same time the name of Guards Sergeant V. Kalmykov who treated his fellow soldiers tactlessly was on the lips of many in the regiment. To be totally sincere, it is necessary to add that in the company commanded by Guards Senior Lieutenant I. Sova, such events have also taken place. Of special concern is that this took place under the eyes of many komsomol bureau members. The unit's VLKSM Committee also knew about this. It seemed that the activists would not find themselves detached from the events that occurred and would be the commander's reliable support in establishing a friendly and comradely environment in the collective. But this did not happen.

Neither Vladimir Koryakin nor his assistants showed up at the sub-unit. After a short consideration, they invited Guards Private R. Rakhimzhanov to the VLKSM Committee meeting. The young komsomol secretary had to listen to many reproaches directed at him. There were many deficiencies in Rakhimzhanov's work, and he did not deny them. But in his whole manner there was either some confusion or indifference. It was reasonable to suppose that he expected another kind of discussion. Indeed his work experience was rather limited. He often ran into problems and gave up on them. Not an indifferent person, he suffered over his personal failures. One day he took his doubts to Guards Senior Lieutenant S. Troyanenko, deputy commander of the political sub-unit and a member of the komsomol committee. He turned for help and sought advice. And the answer he got was to learn to resolve his problems himself.

Certainly Koryakin and the other committee members might not know about this conversation. But surely they understood that S. Troyanenko is also responsible for the deficiencies in the work of the company's komsomol organization. However they decided not to spoil the relationship with a comrade.

Alas, the Troyanenko example is not the exception. Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Sagradyan during the review period also joined the komsomol committee. And he also helped very unwillingly the company's aktiv and did not show the [necessary] strictness and exactingness to discipline violators.

Judging from the paperwork, the komsomol committee conducted a great number of measures designed to unite the collective and adjust the healthy micro-climate in it. But as was correctly noted at the meeting, the results were not very noticeable. For example, in the current period they often heard one komsomol member or another at the VLKSM committee meeting. Well, the form of the work is known, and if it isn't used merely as a check mark, one can get good results. And how did they act in the regiment? A hearing was conducted as a rule only on "demand." This was when sub-unit commanders applied to the secretary with a request to talk with a komsomol officer so as to, as the saying goes, direct someone on the true path in service through collective efforts. However with time these "demands" became fewer and fewer. They simply stopped believing that the secretary and Komsomol Committee members could correct the conduct of several young officers. All of these hearings were conducted according to one developed scenario, with stereotyped questions and no less stereotyped answers.

Guards Lieutenant S. Borisov was once invited to a komsomol committee meeting. Lately he had clearly transferred work to his personal sergeant staff and as soon as possible he himself went home.

Borisov sat pensively, answered reluctantly questions, with a shadow of alienation on his face. It was apparent that he had something bothering him. He should have been asked why. But no, they gave him a good dressing down. And only later they found out that Borisov's wife was very sick and all the worries had been dumped on him--he had a small child at home. He needed an offensive reproach least of all. What he did need was friendly support.

Indifference in one breeds indifference in others. Finally the flame of initiative in VLKSM bureau secretary Private R. Rakhimzhanov went out. Battalion Komsomol Bureau member Guards Warrant Officer M. Ivanov gave up worrying about his collective....

This factual recounting could continue. But the point is something else: How could komsomol members find themselves removed from such important matters as strengthening military discipline? I asked party Committee Secretary Guards Major V. Ruzhevich that question.

"Their initiative very quickly became "concentrated" on the television screen," the party committee secretary sadly smiled.

One must explain these words. In one of the sub-units where disciplinary violations were rampant, the television broke and Vladimir Koryakin usually began his work day with a request to replace it. As the party and komsomol secretary tables abutted one another, the party committee secretary heard no other requests from him. "Yes, and later, he had more than enough matters of his own," said Ruzhevich said candidly.

When you reflect on these words and the words of other senior comrades, you automatically come to the conclusion that many errors in working with young people could have been avoided in the review period if the secretary of the party committee and experienced communists had more objectively tried to grasp the affairs of the komsomol organization and its leadership, had made them strictly responsible and had helped them in their work. And then, assured, the regimental komsomol members could have become an urgent and active aid to the commander and the party organization in large and small matters.

After the election meeting one could hear discussions about plans for the future and how lessons will be derived here and how lost positions in socialist competition and discipline will be returned to the regiment. This is a fully realistic goal, but to accomplish it, the communists and komsomol members will have to work very hard.

12511

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

PVO SUBUNIT'S POOR PERFORMANCE ASCRIBED TO INADEQUATE TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel M. Naduyev, Order of Lenin Moscow Okrug PVO: "Lessons of One Training Exercise"]

[Text] Somewhere, for many tens of kilometers, aircraft of the conditional enemy were taking off into the sky and setting course for an objective held by PVO troops. The radar operators started the strenuous combat training work without delay. It became particularly intense from that moment when the operators detected a group high altitude target.

Exercising military control of the detachment, the radio-technical subunit commander, Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Ryzhenko was calm. Despite the complexity, the aerial situation was not a novelty for the command post specialists nor the operators of the radar station. Similar situations more than once were worked out in previous training exercises also.

Suddenly a report was received of the appearance of a group low altitude target. Having received the report, Lieutenant Colonel Ryzhenko frowned, and anxiously glanced at a higher headquarters officer. The new target was detected late somehow. The subunit commander pressed the microphone key in order to find out the reason, but at that moment the "enemy" employed strong jamming. It was as if someone had thrown handfuls of golden beads on the system indicator screens. Now, traces from the targets could hardly be seen (according to instructions a protective device was switched off). From that time, data of the aerial situation started to be received with errors. In the notebook of the higher headquarters representative an entry appeared. "Several operators had insufficient skill working in conditions of intense jamming."

The shortcomings in the professional training of individual specialists, and first of all of radar station operators, were well-known to the subunit commander also. On exercises in the current training year several specialists displayed low knowledge and skill in operating and employing the equipment. The reasons for this were revealed. One of them was the absence of favorable conditions for effective combat training. In the subunits, as an example, there is a class of special preparation. However, it is so crowded that it is impossible even to accomodate all the training apparatus in it.

But this is not the only thing. The major reason is in the different approaches of several officers to the organization of combat training. If, shall we say, Captain M. Povars, besides planned activities, actively utilized any work on equipment to raise the training of subordinates and trained them to be independent, then individual officers acted differently. For example, during technical maintenance work they conducted all the tuning and adjusting of the apparatus, and the soldiers and sergeants engaged themselves basically only in cleaning the contacts and removing dust from the devices. Even the required work, it seems, with excellent organization, can yield indispensable benefit in raising the technical knowledge of specialists. This is demonstrated by the experience of work of the foremost officers who, suffice it to say, are in the very subunit. But like this, neither Lieutenant Colonel Ryzhenko, nor the political worker, nor the party organization drew the necessary conclusions from the lessons of the current training year. This was distinctly clear in the training exercise which we're talking about.

The sharp contrast in the training of specialists was striking. While the subordinates of Captain Kostyuchenko acted harmoniously, confidently, and displayed enviable initiative and independence, this could not be said of several other radar operators.

Here is one of the episodes which arose during the training exercise. At the height of combat work in the CP a report was received. Private Yu. Chudov did not know how to operate according to instructions.

"Summon Senior Lieutenant Verkhusha," ordered the subunit commander.

Having arrived at the radio station, Senior Lieutenant A. Verkhusha took the necessary measures. They immediately called him to the CP--to make a loudspeaker communication. And then they sent him to the switchboard where something else happened. Thus the officer was thrown from one work place to another for the extent of nearly the entire training. He had no few helpers, many of whom had high ratings. But many of them had not been trained for independent actions in difficult conditions. This means that it is necessary to teach subordinates more purposefully, using for this every opportunity, including time allotted for technical maintenance work. But the officer waits for all this, when more favorable time comes for the training of subordinates.

Meanwhile even the most experienced of the specialists, let us say, that same Private Chudov, having a 1st class rating, stands to lose his skill in maintaining the equipment. Even Senior Lieutenant Verkhusha himself, in the fluctuation of matters lately, pays still less attention to his professional improvement. Incidentally, in the concluding sessions on technical and special preparation he received only satisfactory evaluations. He had insufficient time to correct the situation. It is strange that someone in the subunit does not care.

The latest training, as well, revealed other defects in the training of radar operators. Nearly all of them were tied to the previous reasons-- to those which essentially affected the total showing of the troops in the current training year. In such a situation, it is believed, that errors committed on exercises are fully warranted as is the fact that the overall mark was lowered for the subunit.

12198

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

NEED FOR NIGHT TRAINING STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Colonel Z. Valutskas: "Thus Arise the Contrasts"]

[Text] Tactical training for subunits, which Major V. Beletskiy commands, at first turned out successfully. The personnel in occupying the launch position, repulsing flights of the air "enemy", and actions in protective measures, displayed high skill. But the subunit was given a new task. Accomplish a multikilometer march to a given region. The troops started in confidently. However, when night fell upon the earth, it was as if the people had been changed.

While still on the march the subordinates of Captain D. Skilov committed a number of mistakes. They were late in occupying the new position. And then a lack of coordination arose in deploying the equipment and repulsing the raid of the air "enemy". In a word, the work of the subunit personnel in conditions of limited visibility was evaluated with a low score.

What is the reason for such contrasts? The following analysis showed that in the subunit, insufficient attention was given to night training of the troops. Exercises and training at night were conducted here. But they went from event to event, in conditions with which they were well acquainted, without the necessary physical loading. For example, in accomplishing night marches questions of secretive movement, conducting chemical and radiation reconnaissance, and repulsing sudden strikes of the air "enemy" were resolved in an oversimplified manner.

In contemporary warfare the significance of such factors as suddenness of strikes, activeness, and the continuous conduct of combat actions has risen. The significant growth, lately, of technical resource means of enemy air attacks can not be discounted. Modern aircraft are all-weather capable, equipped with aerial navigation and radar devices which permit them at any time around the clock, with high accuracy, to go to a given area and strike ground targets. At night, remotely controlled pilotless reconnaissance vehicles of the probable enemy can also operate at night, flying according to a given program.

All this places new and more complex tasks before the PVO troops. Only troops having high moral-political qualities, and knowing how to detect various targets in any situation at maximum range, and strike them from the first rocket launch, day and night, can gain victory over a strong enemy possessing modern means of air attack.

They are obtaining precisely this level of readiness in the launch battery which Major M. Dokuchayev commands. In it a significant part of training and exercises is conducted at night. A situation as close to combat as possible is created in them. The training of troops at the launchers in means of protection, work with reduced personnel day and night, and the solution of various requirements, was put into practice here long ago. Questions of organizing night combat and utilizing equipment and weapons occupy a large place in the professional preparation of battery officers. Tactical-special exercises and training, short meetings and use of guiding documents regulating the order of work of functionaries in combat conditions at night, are directed at this.

High skill, knowing how to function successfully day and night, is notable in this unit also in the subordinates of Captains A. Mironov and A. Makarov. The unit commander and staff constantly control how training and exercises, in various conditions of visibility, are conducted, look after the general experience of the better commanders, and the dissemination and inculcation of it into all subordinates.

Unfortunately among several commanders, of radiotechnical subunits in particular, the opinion exists that the actions of their subordinates at night in no way differ from those during the day. They say at any time of day specialists work in the same conditions--inside the stations and equipment, where there is always identical lighting. One can not agree with this. Even operators who are inside the premises practically all the time work significantly harder at night, which is explained first of all by a person's psychological features. At night reaction deteriorates and drowsiness and fatigue appear. Another thing must not be discounted. In night conditions the number of posts for defending positions from a ground enemy increases. I still have not talked about the launch personnel whose effort in combat duty at night, in charging the rocket, has increased repeatedly. Without the necessary preparation, physical hardening and training of personnel the given tasks will not be resolved.

Rhythmic pace and planning of night training have great significance. But it happens that night exercises are planned as "periods", one after the other. This is motivated by the fact that in this way the missileers will grasp the skills acquired in work more quickly. Perhaps there is some truth in this. But it must not be forgotten that such a method reflects negatively on the stability of personnel skills.

Indulgences yield great harm. Thus an examination of one of the subunits revealed that night exercises were held in simplified conditions. Several of them were begun, and even conducted, in the bright time of day. The

missileers easily, without effort, fulfilled the norms and even the young troops, still feeling unsure of themselves at the launchers, were awarded high evaluations.

It is characteristic that the criteria for evaluating their work remains the same as at night. There is present coaching and oblivion to reality of the principle examined in the training of personnel--from the simple to the complex.

Constant attention to night training and a high level of its conduct provides high combat training of PVO troops.

12198

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ELECTRICALLY CHARGED CLOUDS BLOW NOSE FAIRING OFF AIRCRAFT

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian, 2 Jan 84 p 2

[TASS report from Red Banner Transcaucasian Military District: "Explosion in the Clouds"]

[Text] Five minutes of what would not have appeared the most difficult flight turned into a real test for Lieutenant Colonel M. Popov, one which by no means falls the lot of every combat pilot.

...As he approached his reference point, he turned the aircraft and began his descent. At this point, the exercise called for him to make a pass over the runway to simulate a landing. Then suddenly he heard a strange noise coming from the nose of the aircraft, something that sounded like the movement of a heavily loaded train. Popov pressed the button on his transmitter to report what was happening, but he couldn't get it out: there was an explosion. Electrically charged clouds had just transferred their charge to the aircraft. In the light of the explosion the pilot caught a glimpse of something dark fly by. It was the nose fairing, which had just been blown off.

The needles on all the instruments went dead, the radio fell silent, but the engine was still functioning. The aircraft was flying blind through the layer of clouds. Popov summoned his will and his skills.

He could get some idea of how fast he was going by listening to his engine speed. When he at last broke through the clouds he was able to tell what his altitude was. Despite the fact that there weren't any reference points down there on the surface of the sea, the pilot was able to make an accurate approach to his air base and land his crippled aircraft.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

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MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

PROFILE OF LVOV HIGHER MILITARY-POLITICAL SCHOOL

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[Article by O. Zhukov]

[Text]

The history of the Soviet Armed Forces is inseparable from the work of army and naval political workers. Both during the Civil War (1918-1920) and the Great Patriotic War (1941-45) they were always where the fate of the Homeland was being decided, where it was hardest. Their ardent appeals inspired the men to perform acts of heroism, and they were always in the forefront of the attackers. That was always the case on land, at sea and in the air. Their only privilege was to be the first to expose themselves to danger.

In peacetime, just like in war, the profession of the political worker in the army and navy is in high demand and is duly appreciated. The political workers are the ideological educators of the masses of servicemen.

Political workers include members of military councils — chiefs of political departments, chiefs of political divisions, deputy commanders for political affairs, workers of political organs, instructors of social-economic subjects at military educational establishments (schools), and secretaries of Party and Young Communist League committees. The Communist Party has always sought to train and mould political workers who would organically combine Party spirit with profound military competence, discipline, initiative and a creative approach to their duties.

Special military educational establishments train political workers for the Soviet Armed Forces. One of these is the Order of the Red Star Higher Military-Political School in Lvov. Founded in 1939, it arms officers with a profound knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory, military science, forms and methods of Party-political work.

During the Great Patriotic War the school trained close to 8,000 political workers. Its graduates displayed courage and heroism in combat, thereby contributing to the victory over nazism. Many of them have been awarded Orders and medals. Several of those who completed the school during the war were honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, namely M. Bula-tov, M. Gainutdinov and M. Zamula.

The social, economic and cultural changes that have occurred in the USSR after the war have considerably improved the weaponry, combat equipment and other material facilities of the Armed Forces. The level of equipment being much higher, it has become necessary immeasurably to raise the educational standard of the servicemen. This called for enhanced mass cultural and educational work in the forces and training of officers. It was then that the school switched over to training officers specialising in cultural education and military journalists.

At present the Lvov Higher Military-Political School has produced on a scientific basis an effective system for the training of highly qualified personnel. The level of instruction and political education at the school meets the most rigorous requirements. During the academic term the future political workers are equipped with knowledge in a wide range of fields, and the necessary military and technical skills. However, the pivot of the training programme is a knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory, ideological steeling and development of communist convictions. It is precisely this that enables the army political workers to carry out their main task. The school is staffed with experienced pedagogues, such as R. Bedjanyan, V. Khamov, V. Remizov, G. Krivosheya and N. Ryazanov. The command and political personnel have also accumulated a wealth of experience in work with cadets and officer cadets. Many of the officers have been awarded Orders and medals for achievements in combat training and political education and pedagogical skill. The Party and Young Communist League organisations in all the training companies, subunits and chairs are a reliable support in the work of the commanders, political workers and instructors.

The school has splendid training aids and other facilities. Its training centres are outfitted with the latest combat equipment. It puts out its own newspaper. Among the main subjects are the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Marxist-Leninist philosophy, scientific communism, political economy and Party-political work in the Armed Forces of the USSR. In the field of military

training, special attention is paid to the study of tactics, weaponry and other combat equipment, combat employment, operation and maintenance thereof, and the development of practical skills needed for success in the most difficult conditions of modern warfare.

The knowledge the cadets acquire here is consolidated during periods of practical training in the forces and editorial offices of military papers. The cadets engage in large-scale research under the guidance of experienced instructors. Scientific societies function at many of the chairs.

The school has provided fine conditions for the cadets which enable them to develop their creative abilities, to engage in sports and amateur activities. The club has a vocal and instrumental orchestra and an accordion ensemble. Many of these amateur art companies, in particular, the school chorus have been awarded honorary diplomas and titles of people's ensembles.

Today the Lvov Higher Military-Political School trains highly educated officers who are to rally the servicemen around the CPSU and mobilise their efforts for raising the level of combat readiness in the army and navy. They serve in all the fighting services and arms. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War the school was awarded the Order of the Red Star for its services in the training of officers for the Armed Forces of the USSR.

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AFGHANISTAN

PRAVDA ON CHANGES IN AFGHAN COUNTRYSIDE

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 83 p 6

[Article by V. Baykov: "The Virgin Soil of an Ancient Land, From PRAVDA's correspondent in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The asphalt ended just past the last little houses on the outskirts of Kabul, and for the last kilometer or so now the Gazik has been bobbing from one pothole and rut to the next as if riding the waves, leaving a thick trail of dust behind. The narrow country road winds between fields. The windows in the vehicle are closed tightly, but the dust still finds places to get through. It hangs in the air inside and leaves an unpleasant grit in the teeth.

Together with Saed Karim, a representative of the national government, we're heading out into the Afghan "outback," past nomad tents pitched on the barren expanse, past adobe villages, the houses hidden from view by dense clouds of dust. In the back seat, automatic weapons across their knees, ride two activists of the Democratic Organization of Afghan Youth.

Fields bathed in the soft sunlight gladden the eye with the golden glow of the straw heaped into small stacks. The grain has long since been harvested and ground. The fields, however, are not deserted: here and there a team of buffalo pulls a plow, while peasants work the fields by hand with their hoes.

The Afghan peasant has never really known the meaning of idleness, but he's always lived at semistarvation levels, what with the fact that most of the land and everything that it produced belonged not to him, but rather to the landlord. And this is the way things remained year after year, century after century. Up until quite recently it looked as though nothing would be able to break down this age-old way of rural life here. Then the April Revolution, triumphant under the leadership of the NDPA [National Democratic Party of Afghanistan] in April 1978, brought the fresh wind of change into the life of the farmers here, this despite the fact that the signs that things are different won't always be found on the surface....

So, we've now finally arrived at our destination—the village of Gul'khana. The road doesn't go any further. Up ahead, a narrow road compressed on both sides by high adobe walls. A handsome elderly man with a full gray beard greets on the outskirts of the village. This is Mohammed Akbar, elected senior elder of the village. He leads us on through a veritable labyrinth of narrow, winding streets.

"Gul'khana" translated means "House of Flowers," but the external appearance of the village does not in the slightest measure up to a splashy name like that: you won't even lay eyes on the scrawniest of saplings around here. From what the elder tells us we learn that there are 500 houses in the village and 2600 residents. Before the revolution, everything around here was the property of two wealthy local men, Sar'yaval Babadzhalu and Gulyam Ishan. Over half of the people who lived in the village worked the landlords' fields.

So I inquire: how much land did the landlords have?

"Over 3000 dzheribs each (1 dzherib = 0.2 hectare—V.B.)," comes the reply. "But the national government has now confiscated these lands."

We stop at one of the houses. The furnishings are most unpretentious: some wooden "charpai," couches on long legs, and a few chairs and that's it for the furniture. The head of the household, Aga Bakhaudin, tells us that "before the revolution I had two and one-half dzheribs of land. In good years I would harvest as much as 100 kilograms of wheat per dzherib, but that still wasn't enough to feed a family of seven until spring. But there were peasants in the village who didn't have a bit of land of their own. They were in an even worse situation. After the land reform my area was increased to eight dzheribs. Things are gradually getting straightened out now. A year ago I bought a bicycle, and then not too long ago a radio receiver."

"Most of the people in the village now live about like Aga does," Mohammed Akbar explains when we get back out onto the street. "The landlords' land was divided between all the peasants who had no land and those who had only a little by government decree, so that a family now has an average of eight dzheribs."

The land reform decree was one of the first decrees in Afghanistan. On the eve of the revolution, 40,000 landowners owned 73 per cent of the arable land in the country, while a million and a half peasant families shared the remaining 27 per cent. Some 500,000 peasants owned no land whatsoever. As a rule, the landowners did not engage in agricultural operations themselves, but rather rented their land on a short-term basis and then collected a half or more of the harvest as payment. The excess of free hands in rural Afghanistan, where overpopulation was running at some 46 per cent of the entire peasantry, forced the poor peasants to agree to what were truly onerous terms.

Feudal relationships were an impediment to agricultural development as well as to the progress of the country as a whole. The landlords had no interest in investing any of their capital in improving agricultural operations on their land, in buying fertilizer or in improving the irrigation system, because they were getting substantial rent income without it. And the sharecroppers and renters, who were hardly able to make ends meet as it was, were in no financial condition to undertake these improvements out of their own pockets. This kind of exploitation impoverished the land and depressed productivity.

The land reform undercut the dominant position of the feudal landowner in the countryside; 296,000 peasant families with either no land at all or only small areas as well as nomads have now been given land. There were, however, difficulties at first, and mistakes were made. This was a result of an underestimation, of faulty analysis of the reality of the complicated patriarchal customs

and traditions prevailing in rural Afghanistan. Attempts were made to introduce the reform in some provinces without the necessary painstaking preparatory work. Solution of such a critical problem as the distribution of water sources, however, did not accompany decisions concerning the division of the land.

The feudal lords of yesterday put up strong resistance to these agrarian transformations. Counterrevolutionary bands terrorized the peasantry, confiscated their land and killed activists involved with implementation of the agrarian reform. Over 20 per cent of the land which had been transferred without compensation to the peasantry fell back into the hands of rich landowners.

The central committee of the NDPA and the government of the DRA [Democratic Republic of Afghanistan] then developed a program of measures for further reform which took into account the results and lessons learned from the first phase of the agrarian reform. Another 80,000 peasant families are now receiving allotments of land. The revolutionary council of the DRA has adopted a law "On Water." A great deal of attention is being given in this phase of the reform to the implementation of an information program among the illiterate peasant masses, to efforts to expand government assistance to the peasants in the way of credits, agricultural equipment and fertilizer and to programs designed to attract individual peasant landowners to cooperative arrangements.

"The people's government not only provides land," Gulyam Niyaz, a lean, elderly peasant, informs us, "but helps us farm it as well: it sells fertilizer and seed at preferential prices and makes equipment available for rent. This fall, for example, the market price of a sir of grain (1 sir equals roughly 7 kilograms—V.B.) was 170 afghanis, but we had bought good-quality seed from the government for 120 afghanis. And on top of that we can get long-term credit to buy our seed and fertilizer. This is a big help to us."

We hear how things are going with the cooperative established last year from its chairman, Sala Mohammed:

"There are now 65 families in the cooperative," he says, "we are all working harmoniously together and doing everything necessary to help the cooperative survive. We still have serious problems to solve, though. Water remains a weak spot in the picture. We don't have enough to use for irrigation in the summer. We're going to have to either build reservoirs to collect flood water and rain or drill artesian wells. This is expensive, though, and our new cooperative isn't in any financial shape to tackle the job. But we're hoping the government will help us with this project, too."

"There are other kinds of problems, too," Abdul Badud, secretary of the local NDPA party organization, points out as he joins in the conversation. "Some residents of the village are still afraid to join the cooperative. They're afraid of the dushmany. Late last year dushmany attacked the village, burned down some houses and killed three members of the cooperative. On the initiative of the village party organization, we formed a revolutionary defense detachment. We now have 250 fighters. So we now have reliable protection for our homes."

Abdul Badud tells us that 28 members of the party organization have also been responsible for a number of other initiatives in the village. They have organized assistance for those most in need and prepared lists which are used as a basis for

the distribution of wood and kerosine at reduced prices. They've organized 'khashary' (voluntary work Saturdays) to repair the roofs on the houses of some of our poor peasants.

"People are coming to trust us more and more," Abdul Badud declares in conclusion. "It's no longer the rare occasion when they come to share their problems or their joy with us...."

Our conversation has been a long one. It's getting dark now. Wisps of dark blue smoke begin to waft up from the roofs of the adobe huts—the ladies are lighting their fires to prepare the evening meal. We take our leave of the residents of this village, one of many in the country now struggling to build a new life.

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AFGHANISTAN'S SOUTHWEST NIMRUZ PROVINCE PROFILED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by A. Sukhoparov: "Beacon on the Edge of the Wilderness, Report from Afghanistan"]

[Text] Zaranj, the administrative center of Nimruz province, is located on the southwestern border of Afghanistan. This small town with its population of no more than 20,000 is a green oasis washed on the west by the waters of the Helmand River. To the east stretch the hot sands of the Dasht-e Margo (Desert of Death).

Caravan routes used to run through here linking Iran with India and, farther east, with the lands of southern and southeastern Asia. The only thing that reminds us of this remote past today is the name of the province, Nimruz, which translated from the Persian means "noon." For the fact was that travellers had the first half of a day to get from one village to the next. Those who had the misfortune to get caught still en route after midday would perish from the unbearable heat and the sandstorms common in these parts.

With the construction of modern highways and the development of other modes of transportation, Zaranj lost its importance as a major commercial center and transshipment point. Its people began to turn primarily to nomadic and seminomadic cattle raising, but to agriculture as well where water was available. The local Beluchi rugs with their unique patterns and colors are famous; they are in great demand on the world market.

"To change the life of this remote province and give its people the opportunity to benefit from everything the April revolution made possible will require no small effort and persistence," Gulyam Mukhaeddin, the province governor, told me. He is 37 years old, a native of this area and a radio technician by profession. He's been in charge of the administration here for over a year and a half now.

"Since the April revolution," Gulyam points out, "the central authorities are giving more attention to the development of the national borderlands, which includes Nimruz, with its population of Baluchis, Pushtuns and Tajiks. This region, remote from the center, had formerly been doomed to a gradual process of degradation and impoverishment. All life here was controlled by a handful of feudal lords, who mercilessly exploited the simple peasants and nomads. The overwhelming majority of the people did not own their own implements, land or livestock and were forced into a life of perpetual bondage to large landowners, receiving only

one-fourth or so of a harvest for their slave labor. The situation now, however, is different.

Evidence of this are the substantial sums now being appropriated from the state budget for the economic, social and cultural development of the province. Plans are giving a good deal of attention to irrigation. As far as its water resources are concerned, Nimruz is up toward the top of the list in Afghanistan, but because of the absence of an irrigation system and the destruction of old irrigation canals, more than half of the land suitable for agriculture is now under cultivation. They are gradually being covered over by sand dunes moving in from the desert.

As I was told at the provincial agricultural and land reform administration, the repairs on the 49-kilometer Lashkari-Zaranj irrigation canal is going to make it possible to bring the land within the province back to life. This means in turn that favorable conditions are going to be created for undertaking new reforms, the objective of which will be the distribution of land to small and landless peasants. Nimruz will be able not only to feed itself, but to ship agricultural products to other parts of the country as well.

In the course of a visit to the province, Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the council of ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, promised its people assistance with the completion of work on the Kamal'-khan dam and reservoir, as well as with the construction of two new irrigation canals along the Helmand River. In the view of experts, the completion of these projects will make it possible to take another step forward in the province's agricultural development, particularly to expand substantially the area devoted to fine-fibered cotton and tobacco and to revive the cultivation of orchards, for which the Zaranj oasis was once famous.

It is only to be expected that the process of destroying survivals from the past in the economy and in the consciousness of the people will be a difficult one. The two peasant cooperatives which have been organized in the province are taking the first steps. Membership in these cooperatives is now approaching 200. This figure comprises primarily small and landless peasants who received land during the first phase of the reform. The state is helping them with equipment, and not long ago they received tractors, chemical fertilizer and seed. A state farm has been created in Zaranj from the arable land available in the region. Thanks to the use of improved wheat seed varieties, it produced yields of 21 quintals per hectare, while average yields in this part of the country are not exceeding 7 quintals. Convincing evidence of the effectiveness of the introduction of modern methods! This is increasing the authority of the local administration and leading more and more peasants to turn to it for assistance.

Other new features of the Zaranj of today include the creation of mass social organizations—the Democratic Youth Organization, the Democratic Organization of Women and trade unions, which have joined the National Fatherland Front of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan created two years ago. The primary objective of these organizations is to unite the people of the province in the effort to build a new life and to help them put an end to the now age-long poverty and want of justice. The elimination of illiteracy is a by no means unimportant problem to be solved in connection with this effort. For the fact is that over 90 per cent of the population of Nimruz can neither read nor write. And in the villages and nomad camps illiteracy reaches 100 per cent.

Anti-illiteracy courses in the province now number 18. They are so far located primarily in Zaranj and uezd centers. Some 600 people are now participating. But this is only the first growth. Plans call for these courses ultimately to number 35 or so. The country's first school to use Baluchi as the language of instruction is opening in Zaranj (Baluchi is the native language of the majority of the people of Nimruz). Work on the development of a textbook for this school is already under way in Kabul. The newspaper SOBKh, which is published in Baluchi, is going to be brought into the province from the center of the country, and plans are calling for the establishment of the province's own radio station.

"The introduction of progressive social, economic and cultural changes in our province," Gulyam Mukhaeddin, the governor of Nimruz, declares as we conclude our conversation, "is being hindered by counterrevolutionary plots. Bands of saboteurs and terrorists armed with foreign weapons and trained by foreign instructors are being sent into the country from Pakistan. Tons of provocative literature intended to undermine the faith of the people in the central authorities are being shipped into Nimruz. And what is more, the Pakistani authorities are preventing compatriots of ours who for one reason or another happen to be on their territory from returning to the motherland."

The people of the this province, like all the people of Afghanistan, are filled with resolve to resist against interference by outside forces. Revolutionary Defense Detachments already numbering more than 700 men are now being formed in Nimruz. Together with units of the Afghan army and the national militia (tsaran-doy) they are mounting a intensive campaign against bands of counterrevolutionaries. Their activity within the province has now been virtually neutralized. Many among both the nomadic and settled population who had been either duped or frightened by the bandits are now returning to their own homes. This city on the edge of the desert is gradually becoming the beacon of a new life.

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