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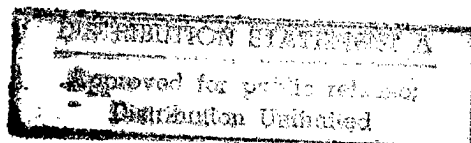
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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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22 March 1984

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

TURKESTAN MILITARY DISTRICT PARTY CONFERENCE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Maj I. Kosenko: "More Initiative and Creativity"]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel V. Rogozin is one of those in whom the unit communists expressed trust, electing him as delegate to the party conference of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District. The regiment in which he serves is one of the best in the district.

"We are well aware of the fact that our present indicators in the combat training are far from the limit," Lieutenant Colonel Rogozin said, sharing his thoughts with me. "The times demand that we achieve more in our military work and skillfully apply all reserves. And there are many. I am talking not just about improving the methods used for conducting the classes or about enhancing effectiveness in the training process. Take the men's attitude toward the work. This is a very important reserve, and we sometimes forget about it."

"Just as we forget about taking a creative approach to the pressing tasks," added Captain A. Lapkovich, another delegate and a political worker. "Here is an example. At one time we were not doing well with the competition. There was a great deal of formalism in its organization. Most importantly, however, there was no spirit of rivalry. We began to study the rivalry more thoroughly and to give greater attention to the publicizing of the experience of those out front. We attempted not only to increase the spirit of rivalry, but also to make the competition interesting. This increases the rivalry markedly."

"We do not permit ourselves to be satisfied with what we have accomplished, either," Senior Lieutenant V. Kostylev, a battalion party bureau secretary said. "The subunit communists believe that far from all of the reserves have been put into action and that the effort to enhance combat readiness, strengthen discipline and establish strict regulation order can be conducted more effectively. The party demands this of us, and the times dictate it."

"The times dictate it.... The words and thoughts of the comrades I mentioned and of other delegates with whom I had the opportunity to get acquainted before the conference began accurately reflected both the climate of public life in our nation and the atmosphere of the intense military life of the Turkestan servicemen. Like all the Soviet people, they approve of and support decisions coming out of

the December 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the 9th Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The delegates to the party conference self-critically assessed what has been accomplished and talked about steps to increase the influence of the political organs and party organizations with respect to resolving matters of combat readiness. They did so from the standpoint of the increased demands set forth in the documents mentioned and in the text of Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech at the plenum.

The report by Army General Yu. Maksimov, district commander, stressed the fact that it is important today as never before for the work style of the commanders, political organs and party organizations to measure up to the contemporary demands, for it to be focused on the achievement of good end results. Precisely such a style characterizes the performance of the party organizations and all of the communists in the outstanding district regiments in which Lieutenant Colonel V. Lugovkin and Lieutenant Colonel V. Tyutyunikov serve. A feeling for the new, demandingness in the assessment of what has been achieved, a thorough study of each communist's personal contribution to the overall success, and the ability to select the most important, basic tasks from among the large diversity of tasks and to focus the collective's efforts upon their achievement--these are the qualities which characterize the work of those party organizations.

While mentioning the successes, the conference delegates focused their main attention on unresolved problems. The speaker and those taking part in the discussion stressed the fact that not all of the staffs, political organs and party organizations are yet making a persistent effort to combat simplifications and indulgences in the combat and political training. The plans and training programs are not being properly implemented in some units and subunits. They have not achieved an organic union of training and indoctrination and are hesitant about adopting progressive experience in organizing combat under the specific conditions of mountain and desert terrain. In some places the training is being carried out in the old manner, without using modern methods or new tactical procedures.

At the conference special importance was attached to the officers' role with respect to resolutely renewing the methods used for training and indoctrinating the fightingmen in accordance with the demands of modern combat, and their responsibility for this in the face of the increased danger of war brought about by imperialism.

Those addressing the conference spoke of the need to make the specific demands of the cadres indicated in the text of Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech at the December Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The key to success in all areas of the work lies in increasing the responsibility of the cadres, in being highly demanding of them with respect to the irreproachable fulfillment of their duties, precision and initiative and the absolute accomplishment of the tasks set for them.

"It is essential for every officer to persistently seek reserves for improving the combat training and the indoctrination of his subordinates," Lieutenant General N. Moiseyev, member of the military council and chief of the district political directorate, said in his speech. "And it is very important that this be taken

into account in the indoctrinational work performed with the officers, that it be thoroughly conceived and be conducted not randomly but constantly, specifically and purposively, that it be based on mutual demandingness among the communists.

Speeches by Major General L. Generalov, Lieutenant Colonel V. Gavrilov and other delegates brought up the importance of the example, of the model, which must be provided by the communist-and-leader in all things.

"Life has demonstrated many times that the commander's good example has an enormous indoctrinational effect upon his subordinates," Colonel A. Albul stated from the conference speaker's platform. "And we need to give greater attention to this matter, to the example as a means of developing a high level of discipline, organization, selflessness, culture and moral purity."

The matters of further strengthening military discipline and making the competition more effective were extensively discussed at the conference. The best units and subunits were named. Thanks to the efforts of commanders, political workers and party organizations those units and subunits have been able to achieve a smooth tempo and consistently good results in the combat training. The personnel are united and have good morale in their military work.

Cases of a different kind were also cited. The party organization headed by Major N. Shturbin, for example, does little to improve the performance of the combat training tasks, the organization of the service or the competition process. Certain communists have been among the violators of discipline. What are the causes of these shortcomings? Primarily the fact that the party organizations take a conciliatory position and do not hold the communists strictly accountable, as Major V. Lukasevich, among others, noted in his talk. The following example demonstrated just how far lack of principle is sometimes carried. Major G. Solonin, a CPSU member, was brought to strict party accountability, but literally 2 months later he was recommended for early promotion.

The successful accomplishment of the important tasks facing the units and subunits depends in great part upon the state of the ideological and the mass political work, upon its activeness and aggressiveness, upon how closely it is linked with life. The party has precisely indicated the ways to improve this work, as Major V. Alekseyev pointed out in his speech, and it is a matter of not relaxing our efforts, not relaxing our creative search in this work. The matter of what specifically has been done and what is being done should remain on the agenda in the political organs and party organizations. Right now it is especially important to step up and give profound meaning to all of the organizational and ideological work involved in preparing for the elections for the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Colonel A. Smirnov presented a report on the work of the party commission in the district political directorate. He stressed the importance of taking a principled approach to the matter of accepting people into the party. There have been cases in which people clearly unworthy of the great title of a communist have been accepted as CPSU candidate members or even party members.

Colonel B. Kudryavtsev and Lieutenant Colonel N. Dulov spoke in the discussions. They stated that it is incumbent upon the party organizations to constantly

exercise the strictest of demandingness toward each communist for his fulfillment of the CPSU Charter and party moral standards. The greater the demandingness and the stricter the assessment of the deeds and actions of the communists, the greater is the prestige of the party organization in the masses, the more militant it is and the greater is its influence upon all aspects of the service and life of the personnel.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, first deputy USSR minister of defense, I. Usmankhodzhayev, first secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, and M. Gapurov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Turkmenistan Communist Party, addressed the conference.

Responsible worker of the CPSU Central Committee N. Grebenkin took part in the conference.

11499

CSO: 1801/188

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

KOMSOMOL OFFICERS' INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTES TO DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING COMPLEX

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Sr Lt A. Boyko, Red Banner Ural Military District: "The Vigor of the Search"]

[Text] In motorized rifle regiment "X" a trainer made by neighboring tankmen was all the talk. It was not a trainer but a marvel! Senior Lieutenant V. Lemchik, member of the Komsomol committee, and his comrades came to look at it.

The trainer was made of worn-out parts, but it was made well. It takes one's breath away to sit in the gunner's seat. It is as though one is actually in a tank. It is extremely interesting to polish up one's skills in the trainer. Everyone likes it. It is understandable why a commission of experts from the district headquarters recommended it for extensive employment in other subunits.

Some significant adjustments will have to be made in the design in order for the motorized riflemen to use the trainer.

"The regimental Komsomol members will take care of this," suggested Senior Lieutenant Lemchik at a meeting of the Komsomol committee.

"We have a lot of men who are clever with such things," Senior Lieutenant E. Kupyanskiy said backing him up. "Lieutenant Sukhachev is already eager to get to work on it."

Many of the young fighting men were eager, because they knew that this would be a good contribution to the development of the training complex. And work on the training complex is covered in a separate item in the socialist commitments. The regimental commander approved the initiative of the Komsomol members and promised them support.

The trainer's "refinement" was begun by Lieutenant S. Sukhachev and his assistants, Sergeants R. Sokolovskiy and S. Pavlov. Captain Ye. Uretskiy from an adjacent regiment was their indispensable adviser. They worked evenings and on their days-off. They did so until they had finished the job. The

specialists meticulously tested the new trainer. They gave it a good evaluation. The decision was made to create a new training complex in the unit.

Once again, the enthusiasts set about the job. They included Captain V. Kryuchenkov, Warrant Officer V. Andreyev and Sergeant R. Sokolovskiy. These men have hands of gold.

The vigor of the search is already producing good results. Use of the trainers is significantly enhancing effectiveness in the use of training time and the quality of the training for gunners-and-operators of the infantry combat vehicles, and is reducing the consumption of ammunition and wear and tear on the engines. Senior Lieutenant N. Aushev's men were the first to see this. The young gunners-and-operators of the infantry combat vehicles learned to use the trainer rapidly and with great enthusiasm. In the heat of the drills they did not notice how their skills were improving.

Soon after that there was a trip to the field. A night firing exercise was performed. Previously there had been few good marksmen in the platoon. This time the performance exceeded expectations. Almost all of the specialists received the highest marks for the exercise. The company commanded by Senior Lieutenant A. Grigoryan also recently demonstrated good fire training. At the beginning of the training year the platoon's performance had left something to be desired, so to speak.

Wherever you look--at the firing ground or moving target gunnery range--the results of the young innovator's search are apparent. Last year alone the Komsomol members submitted several valuable efficiency recommendations, the adoption of which helped to improve the unit's combat readiness and strengthen the military team's position in the socialist competition.

The creative debates are not dying down in the Komsomol committee, however. The members willingly support initiative on the part of the youth, which is making it possible to improve the training of the specialists and to successfully fulfill the commitments in the competition.

The search of the inquiring never ceases for a minute, and their golden hands are never idle.

11499

COS: 1801/224

ARMED FORCES

APPEAL FOR SERVICES TO ENHANCE COMBAT READINESS

SRF Unit Initiates Competition

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Nov 83 pp 1, 3

[Article: "To Increase Vigilance and Combat Readiness"]

[Text] During these days, when socialist commitments are being undertaken in units and on ships, soldiers in the Armed Forces are devoting all their thoughts and feelings to their native party and its Leninist Central Committee. Loyal sons of the nation, they recognize profoundly their patriotic and international duty and keep vigilant watch over the intrigues of the enemies of peace, who are to blame for sharply exacerbating the international situation.

The personnel of the Strategic Rocket Forces [SRF] are profoundly cognizant of their responsibility for preserving peace and for the security of our country and the fraternal socialist countries. Soviet missilemen, like the soldiers of the other armed services, are doing everything to further improve the combat readiness of their subunits and units and secure the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and their friends and allies. They achieved great successes during the past training year in combat and political training and socialist competition. Many subunits achieved the status of "excellent," or again reaffirmed that ranking. Among them is the missile unit commanded by Lt Col A. Pavlov, the initiator of socialist competition in the SRF. On the eve of the new training year, the soldiers of the unit again expressed their readiness to carry further the banner of socialist competition in the SRF. At a recent meeting of the unit's personnel, the soldiers discussed socialist commitments for the new training year and adopted an

an appeal to the personnel of the SRF. Speakers at the meeting, including Major P. Traykovskiy, Captain A. Sidorovich, Sr Lt A. Shcherbak, Warrant Officer I. Khudyashov, Sergeant P. Timas'kov and Private A. Talyzin appealed to the missilemen to achieve new successes in military and political training and in service during the new training year.

APPEAL OF THE PERSONNEL OF "N" MISSILE UNIT TO THE TROOPS OF THE STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES

Dear Comrades!

We missile unit soldiers are proud of the successes of the Soviet people in implementing the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the November 1982 and June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenums and fulfilling the plans of the 11th Five-Year Plan, and we unanimously approve and completely support the Leninist policy of our own Communist Party, which is directed at curbing the arms race and strengthening peace throughout the world. We understand well and realize thoroughly the complexity and danger of the current international environment. Imperialist circles, first of all the United States and its NATO allies, have declared a "crusade" against socialism as a social system and have unleashed an arms race of unprecedented scale.

Under these conditions the Communist Party and the Soviet Government are taking the necessary steps to ensure the security of the socialist homeland and our allies and improve the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces, and they call upon us to increase our vigilance, improve combat and political training, and reliably secure the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and the gains of socialism.

Like all Soviet soldiers, we see it as our duty to strengthen the military might of our Homeland through our selfless military labor. During the past training year we completely fulfilled the commitments we had made, and the unit reconfirmed its "excellent" ranking. The number of excellent combat crews and persons excelling in training increased, combat readiness rose to a new level, and each subunit substantially exceeded the military labor norms. Military discipline and self-discipline grew stronger and adherence to regulations became more steadfast.

Entering the new 1984 training year, we officers, warrant officers, sergeants and soldiers appeal to all missilemen in the present difficult international environment constantly to maintain the high combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces, to broadly expand socialist competition under the slogan, "Be On Guard, In Constant Readiness to Defend the Gains of Socialism!" and worthily to greet the approaching 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and the 25th Anniversary of the SRF. We accept the following socialist commitments:

--To reaffirm the ranking of "excellent" in 1984. To struggle still more actively and persistently to further improve vigilance and combat readiness. To conduct our combat watch in an excellent manner and to achieve high

coordination among the combat crews. To fulfill military training tasks and carry out specialized tactical training with a mark of "excellent." To improve the professional training and methodological skill of officers, warrant officers and sergeants and improve the effectiveness of personnel training and education. To struggle for high-quality fulfillment of combat training plans and further to exceed the norms. To increase the activeness of competition among subunits and combat crews. To include two-thirds of the subunits and combat crews in the struggle for the ranking of "excellent."

--Persistently to seek to master TOE weapons and equipment. To competently operate it, maintain it in immaculate condition, and carry out high-quality periodic servicing and other maintenance. To ensure that the soldiers master their duties rapidly and well under the slogan: "To the New Equipment--A Higher Level of Its Mastery!" To have 30 percent of newly arrived replacements in the unit master assigned weapons and equipment by the end of the winter training period. To achieve 100 percent qualified specialists. To have 60 percent "masters of military affairs" among the officers and 75 percent highly qualified specialists among all personnel. To ensure that 90 percent of all combat crews are led by a "master." To have each serviceman master a related specialty. To continue to improve the training base and introduce no fewer than 17 efficiency proposals.

--Persistently to improve our ideological and theoretical level; study in depth the works of V. I. Lenin; know well and fulfill actively the tasks stemming from the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the theses and conclusion on military questions contained in the speeches of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The party and komsomol organizations will work still more actively to implement the decrees of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum on further improving ideological and mass political work. We will inculcate in each soldier communist conviction, utter devotion to the Homeland, and loyalty to Lenin's behests, his military duty and the military traditions of the Communist Party, the Soviet people and its glorious Armed Forces.

--To develop high self-discipline and discipline in each crew and subunit. To strengthen friendship and military comradery. To have communists, komsomol members and all soldiers fight for honor, dignity, irreproachable conduct and adherence to the norms of communist morality and military ethics, model outward appearance and smartness in drill and ceremonies. To achieve an excellent evaluation in drill training and knowledge of the combined arms regulations of the USSR Armed Forces.

--To greet the 60th Anniversary of the awarding to the komsomol the appellation, V. I. Lenin, and the All-Army Conference of komsomol organization secretaries, the komsomol members of our unit will fulfill still more persistently the decisions of the 19th Komsomol Congress and maintain tireless concern for the ideological, moral, class, military and patriotic tempering of the young soldiers. We will also devote the highest intensity of will and effort to improving our military skill and providing a personal example in our service and discipline. The komsomol organization will resolutely struggle against complacency and passivity and make strict demands on those

who permit deviations from the norms of communist morality and the demands of the military oath and regulations. All komsomol members will take active part in the All-Union Leninist Test conducted under the slogan, "Implement the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress!"

--To develop the soldiers' activeness in the social, mass cultural and sports life of the unit and also in military patriotic work among school children and pre-draft age youth. To ensure that the military settlement and barracks are a model of order and high culture. By year's end to train 92 percent of the personnel as rated sportsmen and holders of the Military Sports Complex badge.

--To display thrift and to use material and equipment resources efficiently. To attain a 6 percent savings in electric power and a 7 percent savings in fuel. To maintain the military and equipment structures, official buildings, residences and training material base in immaculate condition.

Military friends!

In response to intensified imperialists aggressiveness, we appeal to you to increase your vigilance and, like all soldiers of the Soviet Armed Forces, to be prepared at any moment and at the first summons of the Communist Party and Soviet State honorably to fulfill your patriotic and international duty to defend our Homeland, and to repulse any aggressor who dares to infringe upon the peaceful labor of the Soviet people.

Guards Air Defense Regiment Initiates Competition

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 83 p 1

[Article: "Reliably Defend the Air Borders of Our Beloved Homeland"]

[Text] The history and combat path of Guards Anti-Aircraft Missile, Smolensk. Red Banner, orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov and Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Air Defense Regiment commanded by Guards Lt Col V. Nechayev includes thousands of kilometers of fiery frontal roads during the Great Patriotic War, marked by unprecedented courage and heroism of the guards soldiers, and many years of intense military labor defending the sky of our beloved Homeland.

During the past training year the missilemen intensely and productively worked to solve the tasks set for them and to fulfill their socialist commitments. The regiment reaffirmed its ranking of "excellent", and was entered on the Board of Honor as one of the leading units and ships of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Profoundly recognizing the full acuteness of the military and political situation in the world, and accepting with all their hearts the order of the party and nation

to be on guard and tirelessly strengthen the military might of the Soviet State, the regiment's soldiers again have come forward with a patriotic initiative and have appealed to the Troops of Air Defense [Voysk PVO] to expand their socialist competition for a worthy celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War, and for the full and high quality fulfillment of the tasks set by the USSR Ministry of Defense for the 1984 training year.

At a recent meeting of all unit personnel, Guards Captain A. Bratchik, guards senior lieutenants A. Starikov and V. Porokhnya, Guards PFC S. Mel'nikov and Guards Pvt S. Mikhaylov appealed to their co-workers unwaveringly to follow the glorious combat traditions of the past members of their regiment, to mark the forthcoming training year with new achievements in military labor and further to increase vigilance and combat readiness.

The appeal by the regiment's personnel to all soldiers in Boysk PVO was adopted unanimously.

APPEAL OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE GUARDS ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE, SMOLENSK RED BANNER, ORDERS OF SUVOROV, KUTUZOV AND BOGDAN KHMEL'NITSKIY AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT TO THE TROOPS OF AIR DEFENSE

Dear Comrades! Military friends!

In the full flowering of its strength and creative energy our country is confidently implementing its creative plans for communist construction. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, the Soviet people are selflessly working to implement the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and are successfully fulfilling the tasks of the 11th Five-Year Plan. The growth of the economic and defense might of our country and the constant improvement in the well-being of the Soviet people fill our hearts with a feeling of pride in our socialist Homeland, and call forth a new surge of strength and energy, and the desire to achieve greater results in military competition.

Each of us understands that the struggle to implement the plans outlined by the party is taking place under conditions of a sharply aggravated international situation, when through the fault of the U.S. and its NATO allies the threat of war has become a stern reality. The militaristic and anti-Soviet policy of American imperialism is becoming ever more reckless and dangerous. Under these conditions, our party, doing everything possible to avert the threat of a nuclear catastrophe, requires that Soviet soldiers be always on guard and constantly ready to deal a crushing rebuff to any aggressor if he tries to infringe on the gains of socialism.

Fervently approving and unanimously supporting the foreign and domestic policy of the CPSU and the Soviet State, profoundly recognizing their personal responsibility for the security of their country and its friends and allies, we will continue to strengthen our military readiness, increase our vigilance and reliably defend the air borders of our beloved Homeland.

We are serving under the Guards Military Banner, which is covered with everlasting glory. Having accepted the baton of the previous generations, our personnel reverently honor and multiply their combat traditions. The past training year is entered as a glorious page in the military annals of the regiment. Inspired by the decisions of the November 1982 and June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenums, the unit's soliders worked intensely to fulfill their training plans and tasks and their socialist commitments, and fulfilled them with honor. Vigilance, combat readiness, discipline and self-discipline were improved. The ranks of those "excellent" in combat training and of masters of military affairs grew. For the sixth time the regiment reaffirmed its excellent ranking, and, based on results of the past year, was proclaimed the best in PVO Troops.

At the same time, we do not consider the results achieved to be a limit, but view them as a stage toward achieving new, higher indices in combat training, service and discipline.

Responding with deeds to the concern of the party and nation for the Armed Forces, and mobilizing our efforts to fulfill completely and well the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the tasks of the USSR Ministry of Defense for the new training year, we call upon personnel in PVO Troops to become actively involved in socialist competition under the slogan: "Be On Guard, Be Constantly Prepared to Defend the Gains of Socialism!" and to mark preparations for the 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War with new successes in military accomplishments.

Studying the tasks of the regiment for the new training year, we take upon ourselves the following socialist commitments:

--To ensure high vigilance during our military duties, and completely eliminate instances of unauthorized violations of USSR air space. Constantly to improve combat readiness. To better the established time for readying the regiment for battle and the combat norms by 12 percent.

--To fulfill with high quality the plans for combat and political training. To improve personnel training and the coordination of combat crews. To have every crew work at night according to daytime norms, and have every second crew achieve complete interchangeability of crew members. To learn to destroy air targets with complete use of the military capabilities of the equipment in a complex air and electronic jamming environment. To improve the teaching ability of officers and warrant officers and not permit instances of indulgence and oversimplification in the training process. To fulfill all military training tasks with "excellent" and "good" ratings and the tactical exercise with combat firing with a mark of "excellent". To reaffirm the rank of "excellent" regiment.

--Persistently to study and immaculately to maintain and service weapons and military equipment. By the end of the training year to have all those authorized become qualified specialists and have 75 percent of all personnel become highly qualified and 20 become masters of military affairs. To have

85 percent of all soldiers master related specialties. To continue to improve the training and material base. To develop the soldiers' military-technical creativity and during the course of the year introduce no fewer than 60 efficiency proposals.

--To study in depth Lenin's ideological and theoretical legacy and the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. To demonstrate our active stance in life through loyalty to our military duty and to the glorious revolutionary, military and labor traditions of the Communist Party, the Soviet people and its Armed Forces.

--During preparations for the 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War, to develop extensive propaganda about the heroic feats of Soviet soldiers and the combat path of the Armed Forces, PVO Troops and our unit. To participate actively in military-patriotic work with civilian youth.

--Persistently to improve physical tempering of the personnel and improve mass sports work. By the end of the training year to train 93 percent of the unit's personnel as rated sportsmen and 87 percent as holders of the Military Sports Complex badge; to have two model sports fields.

--To treat public and military property economically and carefully. To attain a 10 percent savings in electronic equipment and a 5 percent savings in fuel and electricity. To maintain residences and military buildings in excellent condition, and to struggle for an immaculate military settlement.

--Strictly to observe the norms of communist morality and ethics, and to bear the title of Guards Soldier with pride and honor. To have a model outward appearance and excellent drill and ceremonies training. To work actively to improve the cohesiveness of the military collectives and the creation within them of true friendship, comradery and mutual assistance. Constantly to strengthen discipline, be always loyal to our military oath and the glorious traditions of the older generations, and take pride in our service in PVO Troops.

Communists are the leaders in socialist competition within the unit. They are all obligated to strive to attain high results in improving military skill, and to demonstrate exemplary discipline and performance. Ninety-eight percent of them will become masters of their military qualification and higher category specialists, and 55 percent will become training experts.

Komsomol members and young soldiers, preparing for a worthy celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the day when the komsomol was awarded the appellation, V. I. Lenin, and for the All-Army Meeting of Secretaries of Komsomol Organizations, commit themselves in all their work and deeds constantly to follow Lenin's behests and to compare in their efforts to the communists. Komsomol members will have in their ranks 67 percent higher category specialists, and 92 percent will master related specialties.

We summon to socialist competition the air defense anti-aircraft missile regiment commanded by Lt Col I. Antonov.

We understand that we are undertaking high commitments, which demand from each of us maximum intensity of effort, initiative and creativity.

The regiment's personnel are filled with resolve to keep their word. The guarantee of this is our utter devotion and fervent love toward our Homeland and loyalty to the glorious military traditions of our fellow regimental Guards members.

Military friends!

We are making our preparation for the 40th Anniversary of the great victory of the Soviet people with the highest vigilance and combat readiness and with selfless military labor, and are ensuring the reliable defense of the gains of socialism and the skies of our beloved Homeland!

Fighter Regiment Initiates Competition

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Article: "To Raise Masters of Aerial Combat"]

[Text] Having been included in socialist competition in the new training year, the personnel of the guards fighter air regiment commanded by Guards Lt Col Yu. Temnikov outlined high goals. Speaking at the general meeting of the unit's personnel called to discuss socialist commitments were Guards Major V. Ilyushechkin, commander of the first squadron; Guards Captain A. Drozd, military pilot first class, secretary of the air wing party organization; Guards Captain of Technical Service A. Syriso, master, chief of the rules group; Guards Captain A. Matikhin, navigator and tactical control officer; Guards Senior Warrant Officer Yu. Grechko, master, technician of the outstanding aircraft; Guards Jr Sgt Yu. Torchenyuk, komsomol member, aviation mechanic first-class, and others. They called upon their co-workers to exert valiant military labor to improve in every way the combat readiness of their regiment, vigilantly defend the skies of their homeland, and strengthen self-discipline, adherence to regulations and discipline.

A reliable foundation has been developed here and every opportunity exists further to improve tactical air training. True to the heroic traditions of the war-time aces of their regiment, its fighter pilots have achieved remarkable successes in the development of the tactics of modern air warfare against a technically advanced and resourceful enemy, and in developing masters of accurate missile strikes on fast-moving, maneuvering targets.

Like all Soviet soldiers, the Guards airmen read carefully and pay closest attention to each line of the declaration of Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. They unanimously support this declaration and demonstrate their continued readiness to serve vigilantly and to multiply their successes in military labor.

The guards regiment unanimously adopted this appeal to all Air Force aviators.

APPEAL OF THE PERSONNEL OF A GUARDS FIGHTER AIR REGIMENT TO AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

Military friends!

Along with all armed forces personnel, we soldiers of this guards fighter air regiment unanimously support and fervently approve of the foreign and domestic policy of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government of strengthening the defense might of our state and the countries of the socialist community, and we profoundly recognize the full measure of responsibility placed on the armed defenders of our Homeland for its security.

Taking into account the sharp intensification of imperialist aggressiveness and the further aggravation of the international situation and increasing military threat in connection with the militarist policy of the U.S. and its military buildup, we guards aviators, like all Soviet Armed Forces personnel, are persistently increasing our political vigilance, combat readiness and capability of inflicting a decisive rebuff to any aggressor who dares to infringe upon the peaceful creative labor of our people.

We military pilots, profoundly recognizing our patriotic and international duty and our complete responsibility for the defense of our beloved Fatherland and the gains of socialism, are doing everything to be constantly on guard and to master our weapons and equipment.

We serve under the Guards military colors of a regiment whose personnel fought the enemy worthily from the first to the last days of the Great Patriotic War. Sixteen aviators were awarded the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union for their courage and bravery.

Having taken up the baton from the older generations, the guards personnel are worthily continuing the glorious traditions of past heroes of their regiment. The regiment has repeatedly earned the ranking of "excellent". During the past training year its personnel achieved high results in further improving combat readiness and aerial training, and strengthening military discipline and self-discipline. Almost every other soldier in the regiment is "excellent." For over 10 years there have been no flying accidents in the regiment.

Recognizing our responsibility for defending the air borders of our Homeland, we appeal to all Air Force aviators to heighten vigilance in every way, and to be always prepared at the call of the Communist Party and the order of the Soviet Government to honorably fulfill our military duty. Our motto is: "Be On Guard, Constantly Ready to Defend the Gains of Socialism!"

We consider our main task to be the further unwavering fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the directions of the November 1982 and June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenums, and the instructions for strengthening the country's defense capability given by Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee secretary general and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Moved by a patriotic desire completely to fulfill our military and international duty, we commit ourselves to:

--Continue persistently to improve our aerial training and vigilantly carry out our combat watch. To concentrate our main efforts at thoroughly increasing the regiment's readiness to accomplish its tasks in a complex air and ground environment. To reduce by 5 percent, the time required to bring the regiment to a combat ready state as a result of better trained flight crews, maintenance groups and ground support crews, improved techniques of military labor and further development of efforts by rationalizers and inventors.

--Persistently and purposefully study military equipment and aerial combat tactics, and based on profound knowledge ably exploit the growing combat capabilities of modern air systems and be able to destroy air and ground targets from the first attack. Actively search for and assimilate new tactical techniques which ensure victory in battle.

Have highly qualified pilots on each combat aircraft prepared to fulfill their combat task under complex tactical and meteorological conditions, throughout the full range of altitudes and speeds. Intensively train our air warriors in what is necessary in real combat.

Fulfill our tactical flight training with an "excellent" rating in an environment of intense air defense countermeasures. Not permit oversimplification and indulgences in solving tactical training tasks and fulfilling norms. Inculcate bravery, audacity in battle and activeness in flying personnel. By the end of the training year have an average mark of 4.7 in flying, equipment, aerodynamics and tactics, and an average mark of 4.6 in the main ground preparations disciplines.

--Develop healthy competition in the struggle for higher results in socialist competition. Attain the ranking of an "excellent" regiment. Have for the training year two-thirds "excellent" air squadrons and 70 percent "excellent" flight crews. Have 94 percent trained qualified specialists, of which 70 percent of the aviation technicians are "masters" and 1st class specialists, and 54 percent of the aviation mechanics have high class-qualifications.

More extensively use the educational force of socialist competition, and develop in each military collective an environment of creative activeness, demandingness and discipline. As previously, the place of communists and komsomol members is in the front ranks of those competing.

--Know thoroughly and follow strictly the requirements of flying and flight safety regulations. Improve flight instruction training and preventive checks and more fully use operational control equipment and training simulators. Ensure that military equipment is used reliably and improve its level of servicing. Improve the system for monitoring the quality of operational checks, and increase competition for eliminating defects during use of the aircraft between checks. Ensure a constantly high aircraft readiness rate.

--In accordance with the directives of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum, achieve heightened ideological tempering and political maturity of each serviceman. Continue persistently to study Lenin's ideological and theoretical legacy, and the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent plenums and CPSU Central Committee decrees. Inculcate in ourselves the best qualities of a Soviet soldier: ideological conviction, boundless devotion to the Homeland and the communist cause, high consciousness and loyalty to our military duty. Reverently follow the glorious revolutionary, military and labor traditions of the CPSU, the Soviet people and its Armed Forces.

Improve the forms and methods of ideological and mass political work, increase its offensive nature and specificity, and ensure its close connection with the tasks of combat readiness and military discipline. Expand work in preparation for the 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. To implement steps to further strengthen the education of all categories of military personnel in patriotism and our heroic traditions.

--Greatly expand the movement among komsomol members and youth for a deserving celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the awarding to the komsomol of the appellation, V. I. Lenin. In preparing for the All-Army conference of komsomol organizations secretaries, ensure that each komsomol member is an example in his work and military discipline.

--Persistently to implement the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee and the requirements of the USSR Minister of Defense on increasing the educational role of the collectives in strengthening discipline. Ensure a high level of military discipline and adherence to regulations. Have each Guards aviator be a model of fulfilling the demands of the military oath and the Combined Arms regulations. Concentrate our main efforts on improving the unity of the military collectives and strengthening their friendship, comradery and healthy moral climate. Inculcate in servicemen high standard, of behavior, public activeness and intolerance toward violations of the norms of communist morality.

--Strictly observe thrift and care for the expenditure of material resources. To not permit instances of early removal of aircraft engines and other assemblies through the fault of the personnel. Reduce by 6 percent the expenditure of ground support resources per hour of flight. Develop and introduce no fewer than 40 rationalizers' proposals. During the course of the year achieve a 2 percent savings in liquid fuel and 4 percent savings in electricity.

--Actively to struggle to turn the military settlement into one of immaculate public order and high culture. To have all servicemen participate in mass culture and sports. By year's end to develop 90 percent rated sportsmen and Military Sports Complex badge holders.

In accepting these commitments, we challenge the personnel of the regiment commanded by Guards Lt Col A. Zemlyanoy to competition, and call upon all Air Force aviators to become actively involved in the struggle to achieve new and higher goals in combat readiness and military labor, for the glory of our beloved Homeland.

Kirov Cruiser Initiates Competition

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Nov 83 p 1

[Article: "To Ensure the Homeland's Security From the Sea Axes"]

[Text] The Red Banner nuclear powered missile cruiser Kirov fairly recently entered the Naval inventory. But it already has numerous praiseworthy deeds to its credit. The sailors are persistently assimilating complex modern weapons and equipment. They demonstrated a high degree of training and coordination in a difficult extended voyage.

Of special pride to the personnel is the fact that their ship bears the name of the cruiser whose sailors wrote many heroic pages in the annals of the Great Patriotic War with their combat feats. The present crew also inherited the Red Banner, Kirov, of the war years, which was covered with glory. To serve on a ship with such glorious traditions is a great honor. It is necessary to warrant this with deeds, with a persistent struggle to improve the quality of combat and political training, strengthening combat readiness, and quickly mastering military equipment. Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, USSR Minister of Defense, directed the personnel of the Red Banner cruiser to this end during his visit to the ship this year. During his meeting with the crew, Ustinov emphasized that the most important conditions for fulfilling the important tasks which face the personnel of the Kirov are high exactingness of each toward himself, irreconcilability toward shortcomings, a critical approach to assessing achievements, efficiency and diligence.

These instructions of the USSR Minister of Defense and the profound understanding by the troops of the high responsibility which today, under conditions of increased military danger, is placed on the defenders of the Homeland, prompts the personnel of the cruiser Kirov still more persistently to increase their vigilance and combat readiness, strengthen discipline and self-discipline, and more actively search for untapped resources for improving their military skill.

The organizational and political work of the command and the party and komsomol organizations, aimed at developing among the troops creative initiative and a desire to mark the 1984 training year with worthy deeds, is having a great mobilizing influence upon the personnel.

Recently a meeting of the crew took place on the cruiser Kirov, at which they took into account the great requirements stemming from the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the declarations of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee secretary general and the tasks set by the USSR Minister of Defense for the new training year, and discussed their socialist commitments. The speakers at the meeting, Capt 2d Rank N. Shipilov, Capt 3d Rank V. Obukhov captain-lieutenants I. Prilutskiy and A. Vitsko, Warrant Officer M. Fomin, Sr Seaman S. Bashun and others called upon their co-workers to reach out for new and higher vistas in military training and socialists competition during the new training year.

The sailors of the Red Banner cruiser unanimously adopted this appeal to the personnel of the Soviet Navy.

APPEAL FROM THE CREW OF THE NUCLEAR POWERED MISSILE CRUISER KIROV, RED BANNER NORTHERN FLEET, TO NAVY PERSONNEL

Dear Comrades!

Like all Soviet soldiers, we North Sea sailors from the Red Banner nuclear powered missile cruiser Kirov are proud of the successes of our Homeland in building communism, and unanimously approve of the wise foreign and domestic policy of the Communist Party and Soviet Government. We see making a significant contribution to ensuring the reliable defense of socialism as our sacred duty. We clearly realize that the recent sharp aggravation of the military and political environment and the militarism and extreme adventurism in the policies and actions of the U.S. and other NATO countries demand from us the highest vigilance and constant readiness to fulfill any order of the Soviet Fatherland.

We are serving on a modern nuclear powered missile cruiser which embodies the latest achievements of our science and technology and the results of the labor of the Soviet people. The predecessor of this mighty nuclear powered vessel, the Red Banner cruiser Kirov, traversed a heroic path during the harsh years of the Great Patriotic War and covered itself with everlasting glory. Our crew sees as its most important task worthily continuing the heroic traditions of the ship, holding up the Banner of Victory, and being equal to the demands of the Communist Party in combat training.

Carefully weighing our capabilities and interpreting the tasks set before the crew of the cruiser for the new training year, we appeal to all Navy personnel to become actively involved in the All-Army socialist competition under the motto: "Be On Guard, Constantly Ready to Defend the Gains of Socialism!" and take on the following socialist commitments:

--To thoroughly study Lenin's ideological and theoretical legacy, and embody in practical actions the behests of the great leader, the decisions of the 26th Party Congress, the subsequent decrees of the CPSU Central Committee, and the instructions on defense issues of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. To improve political training and mass political work on the ship and heighten the ideological tempering of all categories of personnel, guided by the requirements of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum. Persistently and purposefully to inculcate in sailors, petty officers and officers political vigilance, love and utter devotion to the Homeland, burning hatred toward its enemies, high moral, political and military qualities, and a conscientious attitude toward their military duty.

--To solve well all tasks of combat readiness and military training and consciously and purposefully study that which is necessary in war. To study and know thoroughly the weapons and military equipment entrusted to us, achieve maximum effectiveness in the use of their capabilities and high reliability in the ship's operation and that of its technical equipment. To reduce by 5 percent the time required to prepare the ship for combat and sailing and reduce the time norms in the struggle for survivability by 6 percent.

--To achieve only excellent marks in solving the tasks associated with distant cruises. Persistently to improve tactical, specialized and naval crew training, and seek out the most effective ways of using the missile artillery systems. To carry out all navigation problems with "good" and "excellent" marks and all firing exercises with nothing less than a "good" rating. To struggle actively for first place in the navy in missile artillery training. To earn the title, "excellent ship," at the end of the training year.

--To improve the quality of leadership training for officers and petty officers, and ensure their leading role in military training and service. Sixty-one percent of the officers will have higher class qualifications, one in three will become a master of military affairs, and one in five will master duties on a level higher than those of his present position. Fifty-six percent of the warrant officers will have 1st and 2d class qualifications and 20 percent will be masters of military affairs.

--To develop active preparations for the 40th Anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. Actively to propagandize the historic achievements of the Soviet people and the heroic feats of Army and Navy personnel. Reverently to follow the revolutionary and combat traditions of our party, the Soviet people and its glorious Armed Forces, persistently

to multiply the military glory of the Northern Fleet and the cruiser Kirov. To strengthen ties with the ship's council of veterans and with the komsomol leaders and youth of Kazakhstan. To expand competition for the right to be named heirs of the best specialists of the war years.

--Persistently to improve military and technical training and the exchange of experience among specialists. To help young specialists most rapidly master military affairs and most effectively operate the weapons and equipment. For these purposes to use more completely the training and material base. To have on the ship 72 percent specialists 1st and 2d class by the end of the training year. To increase the activeness of the work of rationalizers and develop and introduce 34 efficiency proposals.

--To ensure that the personnel are thoroughly knowledgeable of and strictly fulfill the requirements of their military oath, military regulations and the moral code of a builder of communism, and to ensure firm discipline and a healthy moral climate on the ship. To struggle to mold a crew with high moral culture, strong friendship and cohesiveness, and reverently to safeguard the honor and dignity of Soviet naval personnel.

--Communists and komsomol members commit themselves to providing a practical personal example in fulfilling their socialist commitments. During the new training year, each communist will achieve the rank of "excellent" in military and political training, will raise his qualifications category by one level, and will learn one related speciality to the level of a qualified specialist. All komsomol members are included in preparations for a worthy celebration of the 60th Anniversary of awarding the komsomol the appellation, V. I. Lenin, for the All-Army Conference of komsomol organization secretaries, and in the movement, "High Efficiency in Each Mile of Navigation; An Excellent Result on Every Voyage," which will become a real contribution to the All-Union Leninist test conducted under the slogan, "Implement the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress!"

--Each crew member will participate actively in social, mass cultural and sports work. The ship will have permanently functioning amateur art activities. By the end of the training year, 86 percent of the crew will be trained as rated sportsmen and 84 percent will hold the Military Sports Complex badge. The ship will struggle for first place in the force in mass sports work.

--We will do everything to improve the living conditions and amenities of our naval personnel; we will always maintain the working and living areas in immaculate condition and cleanliness. We commit ourselves to seek out and use fully all opportunities to fulfill the party's demands concerning economizing and thrift. During the course of the year, we intend to achieve a 7 percent savings in the ship's energy consumption, use of fuels, oils and lubricants and equipment motor capacity.

We challenge the personnel of the cruiser Slava to socialist competition.

Military friends!

We have been given the great honor of initiating socialist competition in the Navy during the new training year. This places a high responsibility on the crew to fulfill its commitments. We will make every effort, and strive to make 1984 a new step forward in improving our military skill and naval training. We call upon all naval personnel to support us, and to make a real contribution to fulfilling the demands of the USSR Minister of Defense on further heightening vigilance and maintaining constant combat readiness to defend the gains of socialism.

Infantry Regiment Calls for Competition

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Nov 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Be on the Alert, In Continual Readiness To Defend the Achievements of Socialism"]

[Text] Every day socialist competition in our country, aimed at realizing the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the November (1982) and the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenums and successfully fulfilling plans for the country's economic and social development take on a wider scope. The strength of the Soviet peoples is multiplied by the Communist Party's wise political leadership and its clear course in providing peace and favorable foreign political conditions for communist construction.

Lasting peace is necessary to accomplish the grandiose plans outlined by the Party. However, because of ultrareactionary forces and, most of all, U.S. imperialism, the international situation has become more sensitive and has acquired an explosively dangerous character. Under these conditions the CPSU and the Soviet people are staying vigilant.

The reliable power of the people, closely united around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee, and the Soviet warriors are deeply aware of their patriotic and international duty and are in constant preparation, guaranteeing the rapid repulse of any aggressor. They worked tensely and fruitfully during the past training year. Combat readiness of major units and ships was raised. The Proskurov Red Banner motorized rifle regiment, holder of the Suvorov and Kutuzov Medals and commanded by Maj A. Stolyarov, successfully met its socialist obligations.

At a meeting called not long ago regimental personnel adopted high socialist commitments. The various speakers, including Cpt V. Kuznetsov, Sr Lt V. Fat'yanov, Sgt V. Kondrat'yev and Pvt K. Sundetov, urged personnel to reach new successes in military training during the upcoming training year. Regimental personnel called for all Land Forces warriors to promote competition under the motto, "Be on the alert and constantly ready to defend the achievements of socialism."

The appeal by the personnel of the Proskurov Red Banner regiment, decorated with the Suvorov and Kutuzov Medals, to Land Forces soldiers.

Dear Comrades and Military Friends!

The Soviet people are selflessly struggling to put into practice the decisions of the 26th Party Congress, the November (1982) and the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenums. The successes achieved in communist construction arouse in us a feeling of filial pride in our Socialist Motherland, a new tide of creative initiative and energy and the aspiration to reach still greater results in military work.

We well understand the total complexity of the International situation which has become aggravated because of U.S. imperialists and their NATO partners. They have promoted an arms race unprecedented in scope, and one of the most dangerous turns in this race is the deployment of American ballistic and cruise missiles into Europe. They are organizing provocation and criminal subversive activities against the USSR and other socialist countries, are trying to suppress the national liberation movement through strength of arms and are brazenly flouting the sovereignty and dignity of independent states.

A statement by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Yu. V. Andropov gave with exhausting completeness an evaluation of the established world situation. We unanimously and heartily approve and support Leninist domestic and foreign policy of our Party and we see our duty in further increasing vigilance and perfecting military skills.

Recognizing our responsibility for the security of the Motherland and the fate of socialism, we soldiers of the motorized rifle regiment, standing on the forward defensive edge of the security of the Motherland and socialist community countries are fully resolved to complete the missions assigned by the USSR Ministry of Defense in the new training year.

In the past training year our regiment earned the mark of outstanding. Combat readiness and personnel training were raised to a higher level and the ranks of soldiers with excellent training results and upper class specialists were replenished. Communists and Komsomol members were in the front rank of those competing.

We consider the achievements of the 1983 training year the foundation for further increasing combat readiness and military training of all subunits and for strengthening military discipline. We declare that no enemy scheme whatsoever will catch us unaware.

Having thoroughly analyzed the results of the last training year, we projected new, even higher boundaries of military perfection and we are appealing to all Land Forces personnel to promote competition under the motto, "Be on the alert and constantly ready to defend the achievements of socialism."

Being guided by Party demands and based on the specified missions assigned to the regiment in the new training year, we are adopting the following socialist obligations.

--Primary efforts will be concentrated on supporting units in preparing for the immediate fulfillment of military missions. We will succeed in developing outstanding knowledge and each soldier will fulfill his own commitments. Preparation time for bringing the regiment to combat readiness will be reduced by 12 to 15 percent. We will thoroughly study and creatively apply the provisions of military regulations and manuals. We will strive for high final results in military and political preparation, qualitative fulfillment of military training missions and norms and effectiveness in every activity. At the end of the year we will reaffirm the rank of outstanding regiment.

--We will skillfully master our trusted weapons and military equipment. All tactical training, to include night training, will be conducted at the outstanding and good levels, but marksmanship will be only at the outstanding level. Everyone assigned will have a first-class rating, and 70 percent of the specialists will attain a higher rating. First-year soldiers will master one specialty and second-year personnel will master two compatible specialties. Squads, crews and teams will reach full interchangeability and they will learn to destroy targets with the first shot, burst and action at maximum range day or night. As in the past year each soldier will strive to master military equipment under the motto "Take mastery of new equipment to higher levels!" We will extend the field-time between repairs for tanks by 15 percent, for BMP's by 12 percent and for wheeled vehicles by 10 percent. We will increase and improve the material-technical training base and will get wide soldier participation in work-process rationalization and inventive work.

--We will persistently increase the effectiveness of commander training. All officers, warrants and sergeants will actively master the latest methods of training and indoctrinating subordinates. They will make the training process as much like actual battle conditions as is possible and will master the military knowledge accumulated by our brother-soldiers in the Great Patriotic War, in maneuvers and during training in recent years.

--We will thoroughly teach the heroic history of the CPSU and the Soviet Armed Forces, the decisions of the 26th Party Congress, subsequent resolutions by the CPSU Central Committee and instructions from the Secretary General of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Comrade Yu. V. Andropov regarding the urgent Party domestic and foreign policy problems and problems in defending the country. Executing the decisions of the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, we will constantly increase ideological tempering, cultivate a burning hatred of imperialism and a high political vigilance in ourselves. We will resolutely eradicate complacency and carelessness and will be in constant preparation along with the soldiers of the fraternal Warsaw Pact armies to reliably guarantee the security of our Motherland and the countries of the socialist community. We will be faithful to the revolutionary and military traditions of the Soviet People and their Armed Forces. We will suitably celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

--We will strengthen military discipline in every way and will rigidly and strictly observe the requirements of Soviet laws, military regulations and moral-ethical norms of conduct. We will struggle for high fulfillment,

model external appearance and military appearance. We will unite the military collective and strengthen military friendship and soldierly comradeship and will fight with the full force of social pressure those who allow the slightest violation of regulations, discipline or norms of communist morale.

--We will improve mass cultural and sports work and increase our physical hardening. We will develop the ability to endure great physical and psychological loads. Ninety-five percent of the soldiers will attain a sports rating and 90 percent will become VSK [military sports complex] experts.

--We will become materially and technically economic. The barracks fund, workshops, service locations, training targets and all of the regiment's military equipment will be kept in model condition. We will reduce electrical requirements by 10 percent and GSM [Fuel and lubricants], transportation reserves and rubber by 5 percent. We will maximize the results of mass economy and each regimental element is included in the movement to have the right to be called "a unit of the thrifty."

Regimental communists and Komsomol members will be in the vanguard of competition. Through personal example they are mobilizing all soldiers for an increase of vigilance, to selfless military labor and to fulfilling the obligations accepted.

Guided by Leninist principles of socialist competition and by the directives of the CPSU Central Committee, we will put increased demands on one another, will persistently develop competition among units and will try to use the force of publicity in comparing results more fully. We will evaluate the contributions of every military man in fulfilling his obligations strictly according to its own worth, will provide a summary and distribute the latest experience and effectively use the methods of moral and material encouragement.

Accepting these obligations, we challenge the regiment commanded by Guards Lt Col V. Zvyagintsev to socialist competition.

Land Forces soldiers!

We urge all of you to actively join the socialist competition and to celebrate the 1984 training year with new successes in fulfilling the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the demands of the USSR Ministry of Defense for further improving combat readiness and strengthening military discipline and order in the organization.

We are united around our own Communist Party and we will be always on the alert and constantly ready to defend the achievements of socialism.

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ARMED FORCES

UNIT CRITICIZED FOR FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-STUDY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Zhitarenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "Here are the Discrepancies"]

[Text] Experience is convincing that achievements in combat and political training are high and stable only where a precise rhythm of training and exercises conducted at a high ideological and methodological level is ensured, and where every minute is accounted for. This report discusses what is interfering with the effective use of training time in "N" unit.

According to the daily schedule, these two evening hours in the company commanded by Guards Sr Lt V. Tonkonog should have been devoted to independent training. The training schedule indicated: theme--improving communicators' speed of receiving radiotelegraph transmission by ear; method--practice; place of training--training building classroom; leader--Jr Sgt S. Mirnyy.

After 20 minutes of the time set aside in the schedule for training had passed and the class had not begun, the company commander was asked the natural question: Why? It turned out that training was being conducted not in the classroom, but in a mobile communications center deployed near the barracks. We go there. It is true that several communicators were adjusting the gear. However, their task was not to improve their speed in receiving transmissions, as the schedule indicated, but to ready the equipment for a forthcoming command and staff exercise. And leading the men's activities was not Guards Jr Sgt Mirnyy, who was well known in the unit as a highly capable specialist, but another commander who had not thus far distinguished himself by either his skill or experience in this type of work. Fewer than a third of the company's personnel were present at the training.

"It just worked out that way. Some are assigned daily duty detail, others are preparing to assume their duties," the company commander explained the situation, and, as if justifying himself added: "But we use completely the primary time set aside for planned training. Today we used the entire 6 hours, and yesterday the primary time was not wasted."

As became clear later, the company commander's emphasis on the "primary" time was not accidental. As I became familiar with the style of work of the officers in this subunit, and not only in this one, it was easy to see that independent training was considered a secondary matter here. Can this not also be explained as due to lack of control over the organization and conduct of self-training on the part of subunit commanders and the unit staff?

Meanwhile, according to the specialists themselves, most are badly in need of additional training, including on the topics covered in the training plan. This is understandable. Many personnel are brand new to the service. When they accepted their socialist commitments, they were encouraged to struggle for high goals. Each set difficult tasks for himself, but when it came time to get down to work various discrepancies began to occur.

The unit I am describing is in good stead in the division. According to the results of the last training year it occupies one of the leading places in competition. And analysis shows that it achieved this position largely due to precise organization of the training process. But, as is known, old glory loves new. In order to solidify that which has been achieved and go further, achieve more, it is naturally necessary to improve still more the level of organizational work. However, the unit staff seemed to have forgotten about this. One gets the impression that here preference is given to working with papers rather than with people, who decide the fate of the commitments undertaken.

Of course staff papers are also necessary, but what are they worth when there is nothing active and vital going on? Take this instance of self-training. It could have been worthwhile even in the existing situation, had the unit headquarters and subunits shown flexibility and concern that the time freed for training not be wasted. The company commander knew that the personnel had to ready equipment for the field. Why did he not modify the schedule with the permission of his supervisor, and conduct self-training on a topic related to the work on the equipment?

When one starts to think about this one cannot help but conclude that not everyone in the unit is yet imbued with a sense of responsibility for fulfilling the training plans and socialist commitments.

Of course the division staff can also be criticized. In planning so-called large-scale measures it does not always consider the plans of subordinate headquarters, or the tasks being accomplished by the subunits at a given stage. But this in no way excuses the subunit commander who, when he meets with the slightest discrepancy, does nothing to use the time to improve his subordinates' training. Unfortunately, the necessary attention to this problem is not yet in evidence either on the part of senior leaders or party organizations.

Ups and downs in fulfillment of commitments also stem from the fact that some officers lack experience in organizing competition. This is especially true of young officers and those who have been promoted recently, such as Guards Sr Lt D. Ol'shanskiy. He would have been happy to correct matters from the

outset of the training year, but not everything is working out as desired. He lacks experience, and there is no one now available who could help the young officer overcome his growing pains. And so yesterday's platoon commander has to, so to speak, stew in his own juices.

However, it is not necessary to search far for experience which could stand in good stead Guards Sr Lt Ol'shanskiy and other officers needing assistance. The company commanded by Guards Sr Lt A. Petrushenko is located nearby. The training process there is distinguished by its precision and excellent organization. Each minute in the company is most strictly accounted for, including minutes of independent training. The only unfortunate thing is that the experience of this leading commander has not yet become the property of all officers. But if guards senior lieutenants Tonkonog and Ol'shanskiy do not deign to go to their neighbors who live on the next floor up, then obviously their senior comrades, including the staff officers, are obligated to assist them. Otherwise the words about their participation in putting into practice the best examples of commanders abilities, which are written in their commitments, will remain just words.

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ARMED FORCES

LEGAL INFORMATION PUBLISHED FOR READERS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 2

[Unsigned articles under the rubric: "Legal Information"]

[Text] To Participants in the Revolution and Civil War

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers has passed a decree, "On Further Improving the Living Conditions of Participants in the Great October Socialist Revolution and Civil War." It has been decreed that these individuals have the right to all-union, republic or local personal pensions and the corresponding benefits. At the decision of the medical establishment, personal pensioners from among the participants in the revolution and civil war are authorized annual trips to sanatoriums or rest homes. They have the right to one free round trip per year by rail, or if not available, water, air or automobile transport, the right to free use of city transport (street-car, trolley-bus, subway, and in rural areas intra-rayon bus lines), and also the right to free use of local rail, water and bus routes.

Procedure for Inventory of Military Clothing

The procedure for conducting inventories of military clothing and other clothing service supplies in the army and navy has been established. Such an inventory is to be conducted annually in each unit (institution, organization, enterprise) having its own property account. The inventory includes both clothing and supplies in use by unit personnel and those maintained in warehouses. To conduct the inventory, the unit commander designates a commission from among the most highly qualified officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and army and navy civilian employees. Deputy unit commanders for rear services and chiefs of clothing services are directly responsible for organizing the inventory. Upon completion of the inventory, plans for steps to eliminate deficiencies are worked out.

On the Badge, "Honored Donor of the USSR"

The statute on the badge, "Honored Donor of the USSR," and its description have been newly revised. The badge is awarded to those who have given blood on numerous occasions to save persons who have suffered sickness and injury while defending the socialist fatherland, guarding the USSR state border and

public order, or during disasters and accidents, as well as those who have worked to involve the population in donating blood. The award is conferred by the ispolkom of the soviet of the USSR Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, the USSR Ministry of Health, the chiefs of the Central Military Medical Administration of the USSR Ministry of Defense, the Medical Administration of the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the Military Medical Administration of the USSR KGB [Committee for State Security]. The badge is worn on the right side of the chest, below any state awards.

For Calculation and Distribution of Housing

The RSFSR Council of Ministers has examined questions concerning the adoption of a republic Housing Code. In particular, the councils of ministers of ASSR, kray and oblast ispolkoms and the Moscow and Leningrad city ispolkoms have been granted the right to set minimum living area dimensions for allotment to citizens beginning on 1 January 1984. These must take into account that the living area per person should be no less than the average for the population in the given republic, kray, oblast or city.

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EDITORIAL CALLS FOR BETTER UTILIZATION OF TRAINING TIME

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Lead article: "Value Training Time"]

[Text] Nearly half a month has passed since the start of the training year. Actively entering into the training process, and increasing their efforts in socialist competition under the slogan, "Be On the Alert, Be Constantly Ready to Defend the Gains of Socialism!" the personnel of our units and ships are making great efforts to use properly each day of training and every hour of training time.

Time is especially important to a military man. Modern warfare, which is distinguished by its speed and dynamism in which minutes and even seconds decide success, teaches us to value time. Even during peacetime, combat training, knowledge and skills are gained more quickly by those who can use each task, range firing exercise training flight or naval cruise with maximum effectiveness. It is a primary responsibility of commanders, political organs and party and komsomol organizations to teach the men to value their training time and devote each minute of this time to mastering their weapons and military equipment and their use in combat, and to the struggle to improve the combat readiness of their unit or ship.

Many subunits, units and ships can be named which truly value training time and use it effectively to improve the field, air and sea training of their personnel. And no matter how varied their missions, they share common factors which determine their success. These are their commanders' methodological skills, highly active and business-like staff personnel, and purposeful party and political work. It is namely these things which characterize the situation on the large ASW ship, Admiral Yumashev, commanded by Capt 2d Rank P. Khomenko, the aviation regiment in which Lt Col Engr Yu. Skuridin is chief of aircraft maintenance, and the missile subunit commanded by Guards Captain V. Mil'chevich. In these units the daily routine and schedule of events are strictly fulfilled and competition to reduce the times required for fulfilling combat norms is actively conducted. Naturally, combat readiness is the winner from all of this.

Unfortunately, one still finds numerous instances when training time is wasted. Letters to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA indicate that training in the subunits frequently begins late, is interrupted, or is put off to another day. Some

places have become resigned to this and hope to make up for the omissions during the following days and weeks. All of this is impermissible. No matter what "objective" causes are presented to justify disruptions, blunders and errors, the time lost cannot be regained.

Learning to save training time means, first of all, learning to organize properly people's military work, strengthen discipline and adherence to regulations, and increase each person's sense of responsibility for the task at hand. This is precisely how it is necessary to approach the organization of the training process in units and on ships. It must be done creatively and strictly, taking into account the increased requirements for combat readiness dictated by the current international situation. The decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the November 1982 and June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenums teach us to increase the activeness and efficiency of our work.

Fulfilling the demands of the party, Army and Navy personnel are filled with resolve to multiply their successes in training and service, and constantly keep their powder dry. This patriotic striving of the troops must be supported by organizational work of commanders, political organs and staffs, aimed at improving the quality of the training process and constantly implementing the tested principle--teach the soldier that which he need in war. It is important to create all the necessary conditions for the soldiers to master quickly modern weapons and military equipment, persistently search for the most effective way of using them on the field of battle, and learn to destroy targets day and night at maximum distances, with the first shot or missile.

It is necessary constantly to study the best organizers of combat training and masters of training and education, in order to learn how to best use training time. Their thorough knowledge of their subject and methodological skills enable them to carry out training which is absorbing and interesting, and done in a spirit of competition. Each minute is accounted for and used for the subject being studied. This guarantees high return from the training and constant improvement in the military skills of the personnel. In order to popularize the best teaching specialists and propagate their experience it is necessary to use official meetings and gatherings of officers more actively, as well as demonstrations and methodological classes for instructors.

The most important conditions for the efficient use of training time are good organization, co-ordination and firm military discipline. An environment of high expectations and firm internal order regulates people's actions and encourages them to maintain a conscientious attitude toward their work. Therefore, an atmosphere of self-discipline, precision and organization must reign at every training period. This is the guarantee that subordinates' activities will be business-like and that every class will bring good results.

Party and komsomol organizations are called upon to make a significant contribution in the struggle to improve the effectiveness of training and socialist competition. Their influence is supported by the personal example of communists and komsomol members, and their uncompromising attitude toward all manifestations of oversimplification, indulgence, conceit and complacency. Developing

a creative atmosphere, organizing assistance and mutual assistance in training, displaying strictness toward those who are formalistic in their attitude toward organizing training or who are irresponsible in their approach toward learning their specialties--these are all important aspects of the efforts of party and komsomol organizations to ensure highly effective combat training and political education.

Success in solving the tasks set by the USSR Ministry of Defense for the new training year demands great intensity by all personnel in their military work. The more productive the use of training time, and the better the organization and discipline, the higher will be the combat readiness of the troops and naval forces.

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PREFERRED STYLE OF WORK FOR REGIMENTAL STAFFS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col B. Kostromin, chief of staff, "N" artillery regiment, Red Banner Siberian Military District: "And What Is the Output?"]

[Text] Recently I talked with Major G. Sitnikov, a staff officer, about his important duties, and he complained to me:

"I work and work, but to little use. Sometimes I'm so buried in paperwork that I stay in the headquarters until late at night. I can't even remember when I was at the barracks and when I talked to people. But is this really right?"

Of course it is not right. From my own experience I know how important it is for a staff officer, especially a chief of staff, to resist the so-called routine flow of details and red tape and be always in the midst of people, keep his finger on the pulse of the life of the subunits, and through his own efficiency and active participation, facilitate resolving the tasks facing them.

I spoke with the officer and recalled my own first steps as chief of staff of an artillery regiment. At first I devoted too much time to purely "paperwork"--preparing and compiling plans, reports, charts, etc. I tried to do everything myself, and didn't notice that I had gradually begun to turn into an office worker. Other staff officers also adhered to this style.

"Do you know why the first battalion, our best subunit, has had more frequent instances of poor quality training?" the regimental commander asked me when I went to him for advice on how to make the work of the headquarters more creative. "The first reason is that control from the regimental headquarters has noticeably slackened. And if required control is absent, people's sense of responsibility also lessens. The second reason is that several of our staff officers have a very narrow understanding of their duties and are passive in exerting influence on the situation in the subunits."

I could not help but agree with those conclusions. Take, for example, Captain A. Solomatin, chief of the regiment's topogeodesic service. He considered himself a narrow specialist, conducted exercises only on topogeodesic training, and seemed to have nothing to do with other disciplines.

When I one day inquired as to whether he attended tactical training exercises which were going on in the batteries, he was genuinely surprised. He said that there was nothing for him to do at such exercises, since it was not his specialty.

"But aren't questions of topogeodesic training worked out during tactics exercises,?" I asked Solomatin.

"In general they are worked out," the officer said with embarrassment, understanding the unsoundness of his point of view.

Of course, Solomatin and several other comrades had to reexamine their views about their "narrow" specialties and their attitudes toward exercises in other training subjects. In the final analysis this favorably influenced personnel training effectiveness.

The help given by staff officers to subunit commanders was especially noticeable during preparations for the recent tactical exercises. Although at the time the staff officers, as usual on the eve of such an event, had ample purely "paper" work, they nevertheless concentrated their main efforts on working directly in the subunits. For example, supplemental exercises with battalion commander and chiefs of staff on commanders' training were planned and carried out. Appropriate provisions of military regulations and instructions were studied, and questions of firing, fire control, coordination and arrangement of subunits were worked out at these exercises. Staff officers A. Golub, I. Kurbangaliyev and V. Khlopunov worked especially fruitfully during this period. Considerable credit belongs to them for the fact that the exercises were successful.

There is an expression: "Control on the ground, help in an order." It arose as a reaction to the style of staff work in which control functions pertaining to fixing responsibility rather than assisting organization are predominant. The staff representatives come, uncover shortcomings (this is control), and later a document appears which reflects the shortcomings uncovered and determines the punishment of those at fault (this is assistance). And sometimes the situation does not change for the better.

The effectiveness of a staff officer's work is measured not by the number of inspections or the number of shortcomings noted, but by the depth of his analysis, the accuracy of his conclusions, the soundness of his recommendations and his ability to bring matters to a conclusion and eliminate shortcomings.

In this regard the work style of Major I. Kurbangaliyev is instructive.

Once in a tactical training test conducted in one of the batteries it was learned that not all platoon commanders possessed the required methodological skills. Strange as it may seem, Sr Lt V. Sviridov, considered one of the best officers in the battery, demonstrated especially weak skills.

Major Kurbangaliyev became deeply involved in the situation in the battery. He learned that Sviridov, who was used to being among the leaders, had neglected to keep his skills up, and the battery commander did not make the necessary demands upon the officer.

The staff officer did not limit himself to talking with Sr Lt Sviridov and the battery commander. He conducted methodological exercises with the platoon commanders on the most difficult tactical training topics and frequently was present at exercises conducted by the platoon commanders, in particular by Sr Lt Sviridov. He advised them how better to work out a given problem with the personnel, and how to organize competition and create an atmosphere of competitiveness and comradely rivalry. Major Kurbangaliyev also did not miss an opportunity to speak at party meetings in the subunit which were discussing questions of the professional training of officer-communists.

All this work brought favorable results. The teaching skills of the officers in the battery improved markedly. They began to take a more responsible attitude toward developing their own skills and toward the men's training and education. And it is no accident that the battery concluded the past training year with excellent results and is conducting training this year with a high degree of effectiveness.

One of the ways of increasing the staff's influence on the quality of combat and political training and on strengthening military discipline is through the work of the composite group in the subunits. Through checking up on things, this group monitors all aspects of combat and political training, the troop's performance of duties and the condition of the training and materiel base. Its mission is not merely to identify shortcomings, but to attain real improvements. The deputy regimental commanders and representatives of various services are included in the campsite group. It functions in accordance with the plan of the regimental commander. For example, recently the group worked in the battalion commanded by Major Yu. Tsurkan. On order of the regimental commander it devoted special attention to questions of strengthening discipline and organizing the troops' duties. This was necessitated by the fact that deviations from regulations had increased. It came to light that one of the reasons for the violations was that the role of the sergeants had been diminished. Some of them had a poor understanding of their duties and could not correctly use their disciplinary rights. In addition, some of the platoon commanders were clearly not performing up to standards. The group's work was discussed in an official meeting at regiment headquarters and the commander took measures to eliminate the shortcomings.

The group also became deeply involved in organizing competition. Here again not everything was satisfactory. Frequently competitiveness was absent from training, and matters of competition in tasks and norms had slipped from view. In personnel talks with the battery commander and platoon commanders, the staff officers directed attention to these deficiencies and advised how to eliminate them. At the initiative of Major A. Golub, questions of organizing competition were examined at a meeting of the communists in the battalion. The staff intensified its monitoring of how the subunit was conducting reviews and

determining winners, and of whether moral aspects were being considered in this process. Currently competition in the battalion is being conducted in a better managed and more business-like manner.

Naturally, staff officers must not substitute for subunit commanders. The most important thing is to teach people how to organize their work and ensure that each fulfills his duties with initiative and a feeling of responsibility. Frequently, you see, the reason for shortcomings is not so much limited competence as it is lack of responsibility of some officials. And it would be wrong to believe that it is enough in some instance or another to give an order and everything will take care of itself. Exercising control and checking up on execution is a most important staff function. It is no secret that absence of control, indifference and, even worse, lack of principled behavior weaken those who are to accomplish the planned tasks.

Frankly speaking, we have also had difficulties of this sort. On one occasion, while fulfilling the regimental commander's order to check on the progress of readying equipment for the autumn-winter mode of operation, we discovered to our chagrin that not everything was satisfactory with vehicle maintenance in the battalion commanded by Major A. Kiryukhin. The cause was the lack of precise organizational work in the subunit and an unconscientious attitude toward their duties on the part of some officers. At fault in this was not only the battalion commander, but also Major Yu. Nikonov, chief of the vehicle maintenance service, who had not controlled the course of work on the equipment or given needed assistance to subunit specialists.

Of course, immediate measures were taken to eliminate the shortcomings. Communist Kiryukhin was heard at an expanded party bureau session, and a serious discussion about his failures in readying the equipment also took place at an official meeting of officers and warrant officers.

But in analyzing what had taken place we noted that a large share of the blame also rested on the regimental staff, which had not displayed the necessary insistence that the commander's decision be precisely and promptly implemented. It must be acknowledged frankly that the staff's work here had been formalistic. Having sent the order down to the subunits, we considered that our work was done and relaxed. We reacted suddenly only when the deadline ordered for the maintenance had arrived. Had the staff exerted systematic control, such shortcomings would not have occurred. In short, constant, firm control which precludes non-fulfillment of decisions, is required.

Our regiment concluded the past training year as one of the best in the district. To solidify this achievement and achieve more is the task set for this year. And we see one of the conditions for accomplishing this task to be improving the style of work of the staff, strengthening its initiative, efficiency and overall performance. The staff is the organ of control in the hands of the commander, an active, fighting cell in the military organism, which subordinates all its activities to the interests of improving combat readiness and strengthening discipline and organization.

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ARMED FORCES

MOUNTAIN TRIATHLON TRAINING RECOMMENDED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Major V. Khomitskiy, Combat Training Administration, and Lt Col A. Yurkin, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District: "The Mountain Variant"]

[Text] During a tactical exercise the motorized rifle regiment subunits fell under heavy "enemy" fire. For an entire day they could find no way to seize the pass. Then the decision was made for one of the subunits to make a flanking maneuver and surprise strike to open the road to the attacking forces. The battalion in which Captain R. Yakimchuk is serving was ordered to accomplish this difficult mission.

Captain Yakimchuk is known in the regiment as an experienced mountain climber and great enthusiast of mountain training. The unit commander considered the officer's excellent physical condition, courage and ability to operate faultlessly in the mountains when he assigned the mission.

The battalion overcame the nearly inaccessible areas in small groups and entered battle at the pass on time. Its success ensured the advance of the regiment's main forces. During the exercise review those soldiers who had particularly distinguished themselves were named: sergeants A. Balkhamishvili, S. Basaleyev and O. Klochkov, and junior sergeant N. Razumnyak. It was namely these soldiers who had led groups, and helped their comrades to overcome the canyon and work with the mountain climbing rope. And before the Army not a single one of them had any special mountain-climbing training. Captain R. Yakimchuk trained them all to operate in the mountains.

Their solid skills and good physical conditioning also helped these soldiers to successfully compete for the military district championship in the mountain triathlon -- a new sport and one with great practical application. Now, when the Transcaucasus Military District has worked out the training methods, determined the rules of competition and clarified the evaluation criteria, it can be said that the mountain triathlon variant has taken its place in the military training and education system. The unit and large unit levels of competition, followed by those at military district level, have shown that its value has been appreciated by commanders and sports committees.

What is the mountain triathlon? The first element is a forced march of six kilometers. Each participant carries a 20 kilogram pack. The overall weight of the equipment is 32 kilograms. A large part of the distance is off-road and includes steep ascents and descents, mountain rivers and shoals. It is difficult to traverse such a course; however, after appropriate training most personnel display good results. For example, Lieutenant V. Turbayevskiy, a master of sport, covered the distance in 29 minutes even in a pouring rain. Sergeant A. Ust'yantsev, the winner of the district competition, and Private M. Zhukov took fewer minutes. First in the command's examination were soldiers led by Captain A. Funikov.

The second element of the triathlon is overcoming a mountain obstacle field where much depends on accurate grenade throwing and the ability to climb a vertical wall. The rules are strict. Penalty points are assessed if a competitor does not hit the target with the grenade or violates the "three point rule" when climbing over the rocks. Any violation of techniques of overcoming mountain obstacles results in lower marks. And this is fully justified; the mountains do not forgive errors, whether large or small.

Experience shows that some soldiers find it difficult to throw grenades for accuracy. As a rule, beginners have poor results in throwing at targets located uphill. Success in this exercise is possible only through intense training. Exercises under conditions of limited visibility, when the soldiers throw toward flashes and signal lights, are also highly valuable.

Competition in the third element, rock climbing, is of keen interest. The athletes compete individually over quite steep slopes. The course is 50 meters long and concludes with a rope descent from 15 meters height. The rock climber must cover the course along a route which he selects, but must touch five control markers designated by flags. The evaluation is according to two criteria: technique and speed.

The development of the mountain triathlon has forced physical training specialists and sports activists to look again at the organization of the soldiers' conditioning process and their mastery of applied skills. Many units are creating sections devoted to this new sport, and are conducting large-scale trips to the mountains. Most subunit sports organizers have attended methodological meetings in the district Alpine Center.

Nevertheless, the question of training instructors has not yet been solved. Some units are seeking a solution by recruiting military school graduates for training in the Alpine Center. In this way a strong network of officer-instructors is developed who, upon arriving at their place of service, in turn train the sergeants. What do they teach their co-workers? First of all they stress the techniques of rock climbing and overcoming obstacles and various forms of mountain relief.

Landslides, grassy inclines, rivers, canyons, rocky areas, and snow and ice covered inclines -- all are mastered step-by-step, according to the methodology worked out at the military district. The essence of this methodology is that

all mountain training is first carefully prepared on level terrain. When training then moves to the mountains, time is first allotted for adaptation. Here it is extremely important not to force the additional physical burdens, but also not draw out the process of getting used to the new conditions. Subunit commanders who have been trained at the Alpine Center determine the optimal point of transition.

The district sports committee actively publicizes leading experience in the organization of mountain exercises and competitions. Thus, the experience in organizing mountain training in the unit where officer A. Arutyunyan is a member of the sports committee has been carefully studied. This officer demonstrates a personal example of ably overcoming obstacles in difficult terrain sectors. He participates in many competitions and is one of the enthusiasts in the development of the mountain triathlon. It is no accident that in this unit many military sportsmen have been trained who are capable of leading teams, squads, platoons and companies. This is especially important for mountain operations at night, in small groups, and in flanking detachments.

Great attention is being devoted in this and other units to developing special endurance in the personnel. Undoubtedly the training cycle just prior to going out to the mountain, conducted under conditions of artificial oxygen deprivation, is deserving of attention. In this way conditions of insufficient oxygen are created, which imitate higher altitudes. Experience has shown that subunits which have undergone this training cycle adapt more quickly to mountainous conditions, and carry their equipment and an augmented basic load of ammunition with no special difficulty.

It has already been proven that the greater the level of preparation on level ground, the more successful the operations in the mountains. Unfortunately, some commanders forget this truth, believing that mountain training should be carried out exclusively in the mountains.

Concurrent training is a special matter. Here also it is necessary to call upon the experience of Captain Yu. Solov'yev, a master of sport. When he organizes exercises he ably selects various routes to march locations. Rapid crossing of greatly intersected terrain concludes, as a rule, with an attack by the "enemy," which is dug in on the high ground. Close combat, in which the soldiers are required to use bayonets, shovels and ice axes, is also frequently organized in this subunit. In the exercises, conditions are created which force the soldiers to experience the effect of maximum loads. Captain Solov'yev's subordinates ably orient themselves in the mountains, and can accomplish military tasks at a rapid tempo. They also achieve this during training conducted on the eve of the mountain triathlon competition.

However, one must not think development of the mountain triathlon is going on without a hitch. Unfortunately, some unoriginality has been noted in mountain climbing training methods. Many instructors teach soldiers pre-selected actions. As a rule this is justified by a desire to avoid trauma. But such an approach interferes with developing the soldiers' tactical thinking and psychological conditioning. Under combat conditions, each will have to independently select a route in seeking to accomplish the mission. Consequently it is necessary to prepare for such actions in advance, permitting a certain level of risk during training. Able actions presume courage, decisiveness and self-composure, without which it is not possible to win in modern battle.

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OPERATING WITHIN TIME CONSTRAINTS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 83 p 2.

[Article by Col Guards A. Bogdanov, commander of the Guards Motor Rifle Krasnosel'skiy Division imeni A. A. Zhdanov, Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District: "Under a Strict Time Limit"]

[Text] The new training year began aggressively and in a militant manner in the division's subunits (podrazdeleniya), yet in different ways: in the very first days someone managed to excel, someone had to point out the shortcomings.

Of course, we would like for things to go well in all subunits from the very beginning of the training year. But that is what competition is all about--someone has to take the lead.... True, the important thing here is not to allow complacency: there are still, as they say, many months of intensive labor ahead and he who for some reason is not equal to the task today might become the leader in the competition tomorrow, as frequently is the case. Such an approach, as a rule, does not do anyone any good. This is what we are trying to convince people of, using specific examples from experience, directing them toward an intensive daily struggle for a lofty end result. However, this is not the issue here. I want to speak about something that is evident in the affairs of soldiers, sergeants, warrant officer and officers--the utmost seriousness with which each of them does his difficult work. No matter what tasks these people do associated with increasing combat readiness, they have one concern--how to do everything that is required better within the established time periods.

But generally, that is how it should be. Still, the world situation, so sharply aggravated, for which the United States and its NATO partners are to blame, requires treating this matter in a somewhat special way. "Be on the alert, constantly ready to defend the achievements of socialism!"--this motto of the competition in which the regiments of our division have actively joined, on the initiative of the motor riflemen-Proskurovites, is accepted by the personnel with special animation and enthusiasm. This is felt in how people have caught up with the rest, in how they stand guard duty and with what persistence they struggle for new successes in studies and work.

Seeing all of this, of course you also begin to think about your own work style and the work style of subordinate officers in organizing combat training. Do we all regard our assigned mission with the proper responsibility and are we demanding enough of one another when it comes to the main issue--combat readiness?

After the concluding sessions were over in the division's subunits in the final phase of the past training year, one frequently heard complaints about the unwarranted strictness of the examiners: they say, in such-and-such company or battalion the marks could be higher if.... And here they start listing a variety of "objective" reasons which kept them from achieving their goal. Of course, after a thorough critique of the test results, all of this talk ended because in examples from their own practical work they were satisfied that it was not at all a question of the examiners being strict, but that in the course of the training process there are still some who do not rigorously adhere to the key principle: learn what is needed for war. It turns out that this is not because people do not understand or underestimate the significance of this time-tested principle. No, they are all "for it" in words. But when it comes down to doing it, when one must show persistence, initiative and creativity, here is where things frequently break down.

In the exercises we conducted at the end of the past training period, some subunits did not receive high enough marks because of slowness in the work of higher headquarters. What is the problem here?

It is known how much in battle depends on a commander's ability to react on the spot to changes in the situation and make sound decisions quickly. Furthermore, it is important for the superior commander to strive to give his subordinates as much time as he can for organizing the battle in accordance with that decision. For the purpose of saving time during the development of plans, let's say, in the headquarters of regiments we practice the so-called parallel method of working. The point is that the command officers of the regiment, having received the operational instruction, do not wait until the chief of staff and commander finish work, but each one operates independently in accordance with the battle plan and his assigned duties. Thus, the process of making a plan is sped up considerably and the subunit commander, having received the operation order, are able to devote more time to working directly with people and to clarifying the details of the impending battle.

One would think that the division headquarters would do much to make this method the norm in the operational work style of the units' (chasti) headquarters. Along with theoretical training of officers, demonstrative classes were conducted with them. The parallel method of work in adopting a battle plan was used widely in commander training of officers of battalion and regimental level command. Still, in the test not all headquarters demonstrated the ability to work by this new method. As result, valuable time was wasted. Quite often it turned out that the company commander did not have sufficient time even to allocate tasks properly to his subordinates. Not to mention what a difficult position the commanders of platoons, squads, crews and details ended up in.

The following example shows what such a practice can lead to. At a critical moment in the battle the artillery battalion commanded by Major V. Ivchenko, attached to one of the battalions, suddenly ceased fire. The defending "enemy" took advantage of this and went over to a counterattack. Only the intervention of the senior commander who covered the attacking troops with fire from weapons at his command helped the battalion escape defeat. This all happened because the higher headquarters did not allow the subunit commanders sufficient time for organizing the battle. It was namely due to this lack of time that the battalion commander Captain V. Dolgiy was unable to allocate the task properly to the artillery commander.

Yet, both captain Dolgiy and the commander of the regiment in which he serves were participants in the measures carried out at that time by the division headquarters for the purpose of implementing advanced work methods for battalion and regimental level command in organizing a battle. They are also familiar with the aforementioned parallel work method. However, the effectiveness of these measures, as we can see, turned out not to be high enough. Consequently, there was also a breakdown somewhere in the division headquarters. Now we are trying to eliminate this deficiency as quickly as we can. At assemblies held with all categories of officers in preparation for the new training year special attention was given to the implementation of advanced procedures and methods of working under combat conditions that proved their value in the past training year. Control over independent training of officers, including headquarters officer, has been strengthened.

Learn what is needed for war. Implementation of this most important principle of instruction is inseparably linked to increasing the responsibility of all personnel, especially officers, for the combat readiness of their regiment and division. Here, in my opinion, there must be a more strict personal demand for everyone's contribution to the common cause, including along the party line also. For it is from the party requirements which direct communists and all Soviet people toward developing initiative, independence, increasing orderliness and efficiency and strengthening state and labor discipline that the specific tasks for military personnel also come. The key to success in carrying out the tasks facing us in the new training year and our responsibilities in competition is in improving their work style, increasing responsibility for fulfilling their obligations and improving the qualitative indicators of combat and political training.

You have to admit that in the past training year certain communists, including supervisors as well, by no means made full use of the power of party influence on those who tolerated a variety of indulgences and oversimplifications in the instruction of subordinates and did not regard their personal training with the proper responsibility. Here, as the saying goes, is an illustrative example.

In the final document where the marks are given to the subunits and shortcomings in our work in the past training year are pointed out, there is an entry about the fact that in the tank battalion commanded by Captain Yu.

Goncharevich not all officers to a sufficient degree possess the skills for organizing a battle in area. A serious reproach.

The fact is that the subject of the shortcomings in officer training in Captain Goncharevich's battalion came up long before the results were summed up.

...It was during an exercise. Having taken up the starting position for the attack, the battalion was preparing for battle. Or rather that was how it was supposed to be according to the plan. In reality everything looked differently. The tankmen moved out as if they were going for a drive: no security, no air defense nor engineer equipping of positions had been organized in the battalion. It is not hard to imagine what such carelessness would have led to in a real battle.

There were also representatives of the regimental headquarters and members of the party committee at this exercise. They ought to have sounded a warning and held the officers strictly responsible for their dereliction. However, there was no strict party demand made, either to the battalion commander or to the other officers. Here is the result--at the end of the year the shortcomings were repeated.

Of course, now they have drawn the appropriate conclusions both in the regimental headquarters and in the party committee. The necessary work has been done in the battalion which, you must assume, will bear fruits. But, what happened on the test might not have happened if the officers were constantly held responsible.

I think that this applies not only to the officers of the regiment level command. The officers at division command also must be more consistent in working with people. Now that brings to mind the night firing in the company commanded by Captain V. Petukhov. A malfunction was discovered in one of the infantry fighting vehicles which had to be repaired by their own forces. However, neither the company commander nor the platoon commanders, Lieutenants S. Kovalev and V. Alekseyev, were able to do this. I saw how ashamed the officers were. Embarrassed, they promised to eliminate the deficiencies in technical training immediately. I in turn promised to verify that. But that's exactly what I have not done yet. But I certainly have to....

Yes, we are faced with great and crucial tasks in the current training year. Success in solving them, to be sure, will depend on the style of our work. One of the ways of improving it is to increase the personal responsibility of everyone for their place in the battle formation.

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ARMED FORCES

EDITOR OUTLINES PUBLISHING PLANS FOR 1984

Moscow ZNAMENOSSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83) p 29

[Article: "For Our Readers!"]

[Text] Dear comrades! ZNAMENOSSETS received more than 9,000 letters in the year which is ending, more than 500 of which were published. These are articles, essays, reports, comments, poems and other materials. The editorial mailbag is the barometer of ZNAMENOSSETS, of reader's interest and of the feedback which has been established.

The editorial collective sincerely thanks you for the attention to the journal.

Throughout the year ZNAMENOSSETS maintained close contact with the readers. In the spring a traveling editorial group visited units of the Red Banner Baltic Military District, and in the fall they visited the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. The group took part in district and group rallies of warrant officers [praporshchiki] who were outstanding in combat and political training or masters of combat specialties.

Journalists from the editorial office regularly traveled to units and ships in response to your letters, took appropriate steps locally in response to distress signals and in almost every issue of the journal published articles under the rubric "TDY in Response to a Letter: Criteria of Morality." They took an active part in readers' conferences held in the Red Banner Far Eastern, Central Asian, Transcaucasus and Kiev military districts, in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, in the Southern and Central groups of forces, in the Red Banner Pacific and Black Sea fleets and at a number of posts. Many interesting ideas, thoughts and businesslike proposals were expressed at meetings with the readers as well as in the letters. The editors studied them carefully and took account of them in the prospective 1984 publishing plan.

In fulfilling your wishes, ZNAMENOSSETS intends to continue to show the ever growing role of the CPSU in achieving all our victories in building and defending the society of developed socialism, and to actively propagandize the Soviet way of life and advantages of the socialist system over the capitalist system.

The publication of articles on the 40th anniversary of major events is planned in a special section of the plan entitled "40th Anniversary of the Great Victory." Primary attention here will be given to propaganda of frontlinesmen's experience.

We will continue to publish articles on all topics of the academic plan for political studies of warrant officers [praporshchiki and michmany].

Warrant officers [praporshchiki] V. Nasyrov, D. Yermolin and K. Urusev made a proposal to propagandize more fully the foremost experience of the best warrant officers, sergeants and petty officers in organizing socialist competition on the basis of Leninist principles. Taking this into account, we will pay special attention to showing competitiveness in the training process, the moral aspect of competition unfolding in the Army and Navy under the motto "Be on guard, in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!" and to the struggle by warrant officers to attain the rating of "master."

The problems of improving combat readiness and vigilance and bettering the field, air and naval schooling of personnel of small Army and Navy subunits will be posed widely.

A central place in articles on strengthening military discipline will be given to the propaganda of the foremost experience of struggle for regulation order and regulation relationships in military collectives, to assuring the personal example of warrant officers, sergeants and petty officers in discipline and in individual work with subordinates, and to elevating their role in maintaining legality and law and order in units and aboard ships.

The readers will find articles in the journal on operating and caring for combat equipment, the safekeeping of weapons, the work of technical societies and Army and Navy innovators, and the methodology of using new equipment of the training facility. The journal will regularly show the achievements of Soviet science and technology and prospects for their development.

There will be a continuing discussion of the articles entitled "Force of Influence" and "What it Means to be Principled," published in the journal's ninth issue for last year. They posed problems which were examined at the June 1983 CPSU CC Plenum.

The journal will familiarize its readers with the life and combat training of personnel of fraternal Warsaw Pact member nations.

It will publish a number of articles about the preparation of the United States and NATO for war and about the organization, weapons and operating tactics of their small army subunits.

Consultations on various topics will appear in the pages of ZNAMENOSETS. Your letters will be widely represented under the rubric "Reader-Journal-Reader."

This year it is planned to publish photo essays about the best warrant officer schools in all branches of the Armed Forces. The editors can accomplish these tasks only with your help, dear readers! We await from you letters, ideas, topics, suggestions and responses to the journal's articles.

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ARMED FORCES

SERVICEMAN'S FAMILY DENIED SUITABLE HOUSING

Moscow ZNAMENOSSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83)
pp 28-29

[Article by ZNAMENOSSETS correspondent Col (Res) A. Shanayev: "TDY in Response to a Letter: Cardiac Decompensation"]

[Text] Cheerful, active and sociable, he now plays with his peers often and with enthusiasm. In such minutes a healthy glow appears on his flushed face. But then he was listless and phlegmatic. His pale lips had bluish spots, the sign of an ailment which usually is called cardiac decompensation.

"He" is the five-year-old Andreyka, the son of WO [Praporshchik] Vasiliy Nedbaylo and his wife Galina. The boy's serious condition evoked a painful response in his parents' hearts. Physicians recommended more sun and light, but their housing was poor: a little 12 [square] meter room, dark and damp... Vasiliy Andreyevich turned to the political department with a request to improve his housing conditions and received a refusal. Time went by and the boy's health worsened. It became necessary to agree to a complicated operation. Surgical intervention eased the suffering from the innate cardiac defect but the boy continued to need special care and good housing. Meanwhile a daughter was born to the Nedbaylo family and now the mother was knocking on the door of the unit housing commission. This door had a blank response: deputy chairman and political officer Maj V. Stamplevskiy explained to Galina that allegedly housing was tight on post and he would hardly succeed in finding something appropriate.

A new 75-apartment house was to be turned over on the military post in May 1983 and a great migration was prepared, as they say. Many celebrated housewarmings; many, but just not Nedbaylo. And then...

"Dear editors of the journal ZNAMENOSSETS! I am the wife of WO Nedbaylo. Frankly speaking, I wanted to do this a year ago but my husband talked me out of it, saying perhaps everything would settle down and fall into place. . . . And so it 'settled down': we not only did not receive decent housing, but it came down to release from the ranks of the Armed Forces. . . . Believe me, I have no more strength to see how hard my husband took what happened and how he doesn't sleep at night. . . . But I am his wife and we have two children, and I don't know how to go on. The most insulting thing probably is to lose faith

in human kindness and decency. It is unbelievably difficult for us now and so I very much request your help in restoring justice."

There is no question that this was an alarming signal. Then we were sitting in the political department of aviation post "X" and talking with Galina Nedbaylo, later with members of the housing commission, officers and warrant officers, the political department chief and finally the unit commander. We studied documents and analyzed facts...

This post can't be included among those lost in the taiga wilderness, the mute tundra or the shifting sands of the burning deserts. It is located in a fragrant pine grove on the banks of a free-flowing river which promises good fishing in the summer and healthy ski trips in winter. It is neat and well cared for, with buildings of a contemporary architectural style harmoniously adjoining the so-called officer buildings. I wouldn't dare say that the metric area of housing is extremely packed here, especially after a thorough study of this problem on the spot. Nevertheless, such an anxious, emotional letter was received by the editors. I will stipulate immediately that it not only has an emotional background, but the factual state of affairs corresponds to reality, as is customarily written in official documents.

Then just why did the housing commission remain indifferent to the request of WO Nedbaylo's family? It is difficult to answer this question unambiguously and so I would like to make an excursion into the not-too-distant past...

Pvt Nedbaylo served first-term duty in this unit beginning in 1974 and in 1976 he completed warrant officer school and returned to this same unit. Here in a neighboring village he met Galina, his future wife. He became an aviation mechanic and first-class specialist in this regiment, displayed the persistence inherent to his character and gained the right to fly as a flight mechanic. And finally here is where the conflict dialogue between the warrant officer and Officer A. Luchits took place toward the middle of 1982.

The author of these lines didn't have occasion to be witness to that unpleasant conversation (and so we will leave varied interpretations of its reasons on the conscience of its participants), but after meetings and talks with appointed persons I found many perplexing questions.

And so, the questions... Why was WO Nedbaylo, who served more than seven years in that rank and in this unit, and his wife, who worked in that same unit more than seven years as well, refused the lawful right of bettering housing conditions? Why did the family of WO F. Buznov, who had not served in the unit even two years and who had only one child, move into the apartment where the Nedbaylo family's 12 square meter room neighbors on two comfortable rooms?

The present housing commission chairman Engr-Maj V. Drobchenko and political department chief explain the existing situation by the fact that the Nedbaylo children allegedly live primarily with his grandfather. But what does a grandfather and a little house in the neighboring village have to do with it?

The fact is that Nedbaylo serves in the Armed Forces and he, like all citizens of the Land of Soviets, has the lawful right to obtain housing; he and his family have that right! Doesn't the housing commission really know this? It does, but it decides matters not on the basis of the Law, but on the principle of noninterference.

By the time the housing conflict reached its apogee, only recollections remained of the positive performance appraisal given WO Nedbaylo in 1978. For unknown reasons, as many disparaging epithets appeared in the new appraisals as were necessary for "substantiating" the conclusion: "Advisable to release to the reserve . . . on a reduction in force." Nevertheless, at that time WO Nedbaylo held the position of flight mechanic, i.e., he was part of the aircrew. That meant that under the existing statute he had a preferential right to extraordinary improvement of housing conditions. WO Buznov, however, held the position of senior traffic controller, i.e., he was a ground specialist and inasmuch as he had served five years he could lay claim only to obtaining official living space.

WO Nedbaylo requested that his family be moved into the two adjacent rooms of 36 square meters area. He was refused this and offered another very unsuitable variant. For this reason it would appear that the housing commission, in its minutes dated 14 February 1983, was shamefully silent about just what room it offered the family of four. It was silent probably in order to have an alibi later: Nedbaylo allegedly refused the housing offered.

Such a chronological detailing of events and minutes is not by chance here. One sees in them that "hidden current" in which the objectivity of the Law is dissolved as a turbid flow.

Here is the second fact. Several months ago warrant officers Kopylov and Kopylov, father and son, submitted requests for an improvement in housing conditions. Both of them serve on this post. Kopylov, Sr has served more than 25 years, and Kopylov, Jr about a year. Their two families (six persons) live in a two-room apartment, with a Patriotic War invalid as a dependent.

Even before the requests were examined at a session of the housing commission a note from the unit commander appeared on one of them (6 September 1983): "There is no vacant official apartment on post. . . . WO S. A. Kopylov will be placed on the list . . . after five years of service..." Meanwhile, according to housing commission data, by that time there were three possible variants for improving housing conditions for the unit veteran.

And finally, the third fact. Since the time the Nedbaylo family has had two children and that the disputed conversation was held (it involved the warrant officer's statement that he will complain to higher echelons for the commander's unjust actions), dozens of servicemen's families received or improved housing on post. Many of them had served considerably less time in the unit than Nedbaylo and had smaller families. We will mention, for example, Yu. Goloshapov, A. Panin, S. Shirokov and A. Tikhonov, who received comfortable separate apartments.

An automatic question obviously will arise in the reader: just how can such an anomaly with the distribution of housing be explained?

As we know, housing commissions exist in all military units and establishments. By virtue of the special feature of military collectives, the commander is given the right to direct the activity of housing commissions. At the same time it is known that direction does not at all mean command. We also know that the housing commission is one of the collective entities which reflects public opinion and which has the responsibility of "supervision over the correctness of registering people without apartments and who require an improvement of housing conditions, and proper distribution and use of living space."

When a commander guides its work skillfully, delves deeply into the content of proposals the commission prepares, and heeds the collective opinion of its members, then as a rule no misunderstandings arise, let alone conflict situations. But if he relies only on his own emotions, personal sympathies and antipathies in resolving housing questions, then it is possible to have extremes, arbitrariness and violations of the requirements of guidance documents. This naturally causes dissatisfaction in people and generates complaints. Strictly speaking, that is what happened in this case as well.

As numerous facts indicate, the role of housing commission in this unit is reduced essentially to a registration of command decisions about distribution of housing in the minutes. No priority lists of servicemen requiring apartments or an improvement in housing conditions are compiled, they are not examined at commission sessions and are not made known to the personnel. Consequently, there is an absence of publicity in this matter. A gradation among servicemen which is entirely unjustified has been established in the distribution of housing.

Cardiac decompensation... If a person in a leadership rank is infected with this ailment on a moral and ethical plane, it is difficult to expect a sympathetic attitude from him toward those around him.

The housing question always has been acute. Inasmuch as this problem still is not so simple, it was emphasized at the 26th CPSU Congress that special attentiveness, objectivity, and decency if you like, are needed in the distribution of housing as well. This must occur everywhere with the participation of public organizations and under their strict supervision.

These party guidelines concern all party members including, of course, those who head the housing commission of aviation post "X" and who direct its activity. It must be assumed that appropriate appointed persons will explain this immutable truth to comrades Luchits and Drobchenko, they will establish principles of legality in housing allocation and will restore justice with respect to the families of warrant officers Nedbaylo and Kopylov, Sr and Junior.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO ZNAMENOSETS EDITOR, RESPONSES

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83)
pp 18-19

[Individual letters or responses: "Reader-Journal-Reader"]

[Excerpts] This Was of Interest: Conditioning for Combat

I read with interest the letter to the editors from warrant officers [praporshchiki] A. Bezruchko, O. Syzanov and V. Usachev entitled "Become Friends with Sports." Everything about which they write also can be encountered in our group of warrant officers. As a matter of fact, just what is this? A young person, a warrant officer, cannot fulfill the norms of the Military Sports Complex, become a ranking sportsman, or pass control norms for physical training for the final inspection!

Let's assume that sports categories are something special, but what about the rest? In conformity with established procedures, all servicemen are divided by age into physical training groups, and exercises and norms are determined for each group (and there are five groups) which are within the groups' abilities.

Many of our warrant officers do not even attend the scheduled classes conducted regularly three times a week during duty time, apparently embarrassed to show their clumsiness or inability to perform a certain exercise. Moreover, they are beginning to go to the physicians and have asked for a preferential age group or even a therapeutic physical culture group. Among them are warrant officers A. Sapunov, P. Soroka, A. Pavlov, Yu. Pidonenko and V. Kosterin, who are only 25-26 years old.

Unfortunately, our unit does not hold regular checks of the physical condition of warrant officers or supervise the fulfillment of socialist pledges under the Military Sports Complex and under the category norms. It is not surprising that in the previous inspection the majority of our warrant officers received only satisfactory grades, and such comrades as V. Ryabov, S. Ponomarev, S. Tikhonov, N. Prokop'yev and others received an "unsatisfactory" in physical training. It is true that the latest results are more pleasing, but many warrant officers continue to scorn physical conditioning.

This is nothing more than irresponsibility with respect to oneself and service! Can such warrant officers really be full-fledged specialists and are they really capable of the extreme physical, moral and psychological stresses of modern warfare?

The journal raised an important issue. In our opinion, the success of troop combat training depends to no small extent on its resolution, and so every warrant officer [praporshchik and michman] must seriously engage in his physical conditioning without putting it off for tomorrow.

WO A. Borodkin, platoon commander,
First-category holder in soccer

In the Wake of ZNAMENOSETS Articles: "After the Accident"

That was the title of an article by Maj Ye. Burkun, published in the July 1983 issue of the journal. It told about the amoral behavior of WO [Praporshchik] V. Belkin, who had a highway transportation accident in an inebriated condition. The indoctrinational work of commanders with warrant officers [praporshchiki] of the Kacha Order of Lenin, Red Banner Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots imeni A. F. Myasnikov was criticized.

As the editors were informed by Col Ya. Kruglov, chief of the school political department, the criticism was deemed to be proper. The article "After the Accident" was discussed at general meetings of officers, warrant officers, workers and employees of the unit and school subunits. WO Belkin was given a strict reprimand with entry in his record at a session of the Komsomol committee. His behavior also was examined at a meeting of unit warrant officers.

A number of other indoctrinational measures were conducted. In particular, a conference of the school administration had a hearing for political worker Officer V. Mayorenko. The attention of all officers was directed to the need for reinforcing work with subordinates for their moral upbringing in light of resolutions of the 26th party congress and the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum.

"It's Precise, But Not Everything is Clear..."

A report by that title published in the September issue of ZNAMENOSETS told about red tape involved in presenting the medal "For Faultless Service" to WO [Praporshchik] N. Vlasov.

The editors received an official response signed by acting chief of the personnel department of the Railroad Troops, Comrade V. Kurshakov. As an investigation established, the red tape was the fault of Maj A. Khomich, who did not inform the personnel entity promptly that the award had not been received in the unit. Comrade Khomich was given disciplinary punishment and held accountable by the party for a bureaucratic attitude toward the job and for not taking steps to locate and present the medal. Officer N. Zdorovenko, chief of the personnel entity administering the unit where WO Vlasov serves,

was given strict instructions as to the absence of proper supervision over implementation of award material.

The journal's comments were discussed at an officer conference of the Railroad Troops personnel entity. The criticism in the article addressed to the personnel entity and appointed persons guilty of red tape in the incident was deemed just. The personnel entity was instructed that it should perform a more thorough check of the receipt by military units of extracts from orders about conferring appropriate awards. To prevent such instances in the future, it is to monitor strictly the mandatory presentation of orders and medals to recipients on the day the extract from the order is announced, with a simultaneous entry of a note in the serviceman's personal file.

The Editors Give a Reminder...

To Lt Col Justice V. Bakulin (Red Banner Far East Military District)

In June 1983 editors of the journal ZNAMENOSETS sent you a letter from WO [Praporshchik] A. Kondratyuk, helicopter flight technician, who stated that the helicopter rotor was damaged as the helicopter was taxiing on the hardstand. He was given a monetary deduction amounting to three months' pay for this. The letter's author considers such punishment unjustified.

More than six months already have gone by, but the editors still have not received an answer to the question which was raised.

To Col Intend Serv V. Sklyar

The editors have been waiting for some three months now for an answer from the finance service of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District to a letter from WO [Praporshchik] O. Bagrin concerning payment of monetary compensation for a class rating.

Following a Letter to the Editors: The Award was Found

"In 1982, as I learned, I was recommended for a state award, but have not received it to this date," WO [Praporshchik] M. Dudak wrote to the editors. We turned to the political directorate of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District and the editors' query was answered by political worker Lt Col V. Zikov. He announced that Mikhail Pavlovich Dudak was awarded the medal "For Combat Merit" by Ukase of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Inasmuch as the serviceman had departed for a new duty station, a report on this was sent promptly to the Ministry of Defense Main Personnel Directorate. The medal and award documents will be sent in the near future to the district in which the warrant officer is serving and the award will be presented.

Money Allocated

WO [Praporshchik] Yu. Shavva was on TDY with three colleagues in September of last year. Travel documents were not made out for them in the unit on their

departure to the destination and they purchased tickets for a round trip at their own expense. When they returned and went to the finance service, payment of the TDY money began to be delayed under various pretexts. "Such instances are not isolated in the unit," it was stated in the letter. "Is this really proper?"

To receive an answer to this question the editors sent a letter to the Red Banner Ural Military District finance service. It was soon answered by Lt Col Intend Serv N. Vasil'yev. He announced that in violation of the existing statute prohibiting official TDY's in the absence of funds for these purposes, the command element of the unit where Comrade Shavva serves sent the letter's author and the other servicemen on TDY, but the finance service did not have the right to pay for it in connection with the absence of funds. At the present time money has been allocated for these purposes and TDY money will be paid to the servicemen...

Unfortunately, the response said nothing about the specific culprit in the violation of the established procedure for arranging TDY's or about steps to prevent similar instances.

Mistake Corrected

Soviet Army employee Ya. Shtayunda complained about the indifferent attitude toward her on the part of the command element of the unit in which she worked as a goodsmanager. After the transfer of her husband, a warrant officer [praporshchik], she was not able to work further in the position she held previously, since that position already was occupied by another person. Because of this she was forced to agree to a lower-paying job. In addition, an appropriate entry was not made in the labor book and she was refused payment of money for unused regular leave, and a maternity leave was coming up. Comrade Shtayunda repeatedly turned to the unit commander and other appointed persons locally on these matters, but none of them wanted to delve into the existing situation and assist the mother of three, who was expecting the birth of a fourth child.

As the editors were informed from the political directorate of the Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District by Maj Gen B. Tarasov, the facts given in the letter from the applicant had been confirmed. Her position had been filled at the husband's new duty station and so Comrade Shtayunda had been documented as a seamstress in a military construction detachment. Due to the inattentiveness of the unit chief of staff, no note was made in the labor book of the warrant officer's wife about her release from her previous job. The mistake now has been corrected and the military construction detachment commander had sent a query to the higher unit about Comrade Shtayunda's average monthly pay for 1983 in order to pay her for unused leave.

You Ask and We Answer: To WO [Praporshchik] L. Gurin

You ask for an explanation of the amounts of pensions granted to warrant officers [praporshchiki and michmany] who have served for 25 years.

As was explained to us by the Ministry of Defense Central Finance Directorate, in conformity with the Statute, pensions are granted to warrant officers for serving 25 years in the amount of 50 percent of salary and three percent of salary for each year of service over 25 years.

Pensions are figured from the salary being paid for the last T/O&E position and military rank, with an increase of 20 rubles in lieu of the food ration for servicemen of all branches of the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, warrant officer pensions figured in this manner cannot exceed the maximum amount established by the Statute.

To WO (Res) F. Martynenko

You were released to the reserve on reaching the age limit and wish to move to the place of residence from which you were called into the Army, and you ask how long the certificate issued to you in the unit is valid.

According to the Statute on Benefits for Servicemen, Reservists and Persons Released from Military Service into Retirement and Their Families, extended-term servicemen, warrant officers [praporshchiki and michmany] and officers released from military service into retirement because of health, age or a reduction in force are provided with living space by ispolkoms of local soviets of people's deputies on a priority basis at their place of residence.

USSR Armed Forces service personnel released to the reserve or into retirement must arrive together with members of their families at those populated points where they lived permanently before call-up into the Army or before entering service within six months after release to the reserve or into retirement and must be placed on the military and apartment register.

In connection with the fact that you have lost the right to priority receipt of living space at your chosen place of residence (more than three years have gone by), the provision of living space must be made on a general basis.

To Sgt N. Mikheyeva

"Is it authorized for women in the military to perform official duties in the position of chief of a clothing repair shop?" you ask.

It is not authorized to keep a servicewoman in the position of clothing repair shop chief.

To WO [Michman] V. Gorenchuk

You ask whether or not expenses for traveling on leave in your personal vehicle are remunerated.

In accordance with the Instructions, travel documents are issued to servicemen once a calendar year for travel to and from a regular leave.

Existing legislation does not provide for reimbursement of expenses to servicemen for travel in personal automobiles on regular leave.

To Jr Sgt V. Zhdanova

"I am a single mother," you write, "and do I have the right to receive a separate apartment?"

We will explain that according to a USSR minister of defense order and a directive of the USSR Ministry of Defense Main Billeting and Maintenance Directorate, servicewomen are provided with a dormitory or official living space.

To WO [Praporshchik] A. Galyuta

You ask what the length of an extended regular leave should be for those serving in remote locations of the USSR.

In each specific instance the length of a regular leave within the limits of from 30 to 45 days (not counting time for travel to and from the place of leave) is set by the commander (chief) who has the right to grant regular leaves, based on the interests of service, an evaluation of the serviceman's official work and state of health, and other circumstances.

To WO [Praporshchik] Med Serv M. Zatula

You wish to know "Are medical workers used to perform internal service?"

According to the existing statute, only physicians are not assigned to a detail, where their duties do not involve the performance of medical duty.

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CSO: 1801/206

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Officer's Apartment Confiscated Unlawfully

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter by Lt Col V. M. Makhov and response by Eng-Col S. Zhudro: "It's an Order: Give up Your Apartment"]

[Text] Not long ago I reported for duty with the Central Group of Forces. Prior to that I served in the headquarters of the Central Asian Military district in Alma-Ata. Before leaving for my new post I was summoned to the Personnel administration and informed that I would have to divest my apartment and surrender it to the Billeting and Maintenance section.

This surprised me, inasmuch as I knew that the apartments of officers leaving for abroad on long-term assignments are sealed and preserved till the tenant's return. I made an attempt to remind the personnel worker about this, but was told: "This is an order."

I have been in the Army for over 20 years, am married and have two children. Having long served with the Central Asian Military district, it was my intention to eventually return to Alma-Ata and settle there after retiring from military service. But an order is an order, I surrendered my apartment to the Billeting and Maintenance section and was given a voucher certifying the fact. My personal belongings I had to leave with friends. Was my case (and that of many of my fellow officers) properly handled?

Lt Col V. Makhov, Central Group of Forces

The editorial board asked the chief of the Billeting and Maintenance Administration, USSR Ministry of Defense, to answer this letter.

The facts reported by Comrade Makhov are, unfortunately, no isolated case. Similar letters are routinely received by the Billeting and Maintenance Main Administration, USSR Ministry of Defense from other districts, in particular from military personnel stationed in the Far Eastern Military district. Such a course of action is a violation of the law.

According to the law and to guidelines set down by the USSR Ministry of Defense, the living space of military personnel and their families assigned to service abroad, in Far Northern regions and in localities afforded equal status with Far Northern regions, as well as in other cases stipulated by the law is to be put under protective keep and preserved in their name for the entire period of their service in the regions and localities listed above.

Eng-Col S. Zhudro

Disregard of War Widows Decried

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter to editor by I. Yefimov: "A Word About the Soldier's Widow"]

[Text] We have high esteem and deep respect for veterans of the Great Patriotic War. The Communist party and the Soviet government are always mindful of their needs--they have been accorded a number of privileges. The special regard for front-line veterans is manifested in many ways--they are invited to Pioneer rallies, lectures on courage, ceremonial meetings. In a word, our veterans enjoy the honor, attention and respect that they have truly earned.

But there are people in our midst who belong to the same generation and to whom, in my opinion, we do not pay the attention and deference they deserve. I have in mind the widows of soldiers killed in action. Let us pause and ponder the harsh, onerous fate that befell these women. That during the war they were called upon to do backbreaking work which often exceeded a woman's powers is understandable: wartime conditions were hard on everybody, each and all labored in the name of victory whatever it took. When a heavy load is carried by all it is easier to bear--not because somebody is assigned a smaller weight, but because the burden is equally heavy for all.

But at long last "the guns fell silent, the battles ended." The men at the front returned to their homes and families, to their wives and children. But the number of women whose husbands never came back was great. Not only did the woman lose her loved one, her inconsolable grief was compounded by the fact that she now had no one to share the family cares with, cares that usually fall on the shoulders of both partners. Keeping the house, raising the family, feeding and rearing the children--all this she was forced to do by herself.

It seems to me, then, that we do not properly appreciate the heroism of these war widows. Just today I got into a conversation with a fellow worker whose

age is the same as mine. His father was killed in action in 1942, mine died at home that same year from tuberculosis. Each left a widow. The husband of one lost his life in battle for the Motherland, of the other--died a natural death. It is impossible not to see a difference here.

Another example. Komsomol members, young people in general hold a function of some type. They invite a number of war and labor veterans. It is fitting and proper that they should do so. But can any one of us remember an occasion when a war widow was invited to a festive gathering? Invited not as a production veteran, but as a woman who lost her husband, a defender of the Motherland, a woman who brought up good, hard-working children. It seems to me that rayispolkoms, rural soviets, institutions and organizations where men worked who died in the war must keep lists of those men's widows. Not for the sake of the lists per se, of course, but in order to lend the women the broadest of support.

I do not know whether they enjoy any privileges, but I am firmly convinced that these women are sorely in need of our help. And more of it with each passing year. Because they are growing older and older, and their health deteriorates apace: the hardships of the past are catching up with them.

And this thought I would like to express: as we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War we would do well to erect monuments to the war widow in Moscow and other cities, in literature and in art. That our winged slogan "Nothing is forgotten, no one is forgotten" might apply to the war widow too.

I. Yefimov

From the editors:

Reader I. Yefimov is correct in saying that lending assistance to war widows is the moral duty of each one of us. His letter also touches on the question of privileges for wives of servicemen killed in the line of duty. The survivors do enjoy certain privileges. For example, Soviet law expressly stipulates that families of fallen servicemen who need their housing conditions improved must be provided with apartments before all others. If they are receiving a pension for a fallen serviceman they are entitled to a 50 percent reduction in their rent and utility payments. Furthermore, the Councils of Ministers of union republics and individual ministries and departments are empowered to undertake additional measures within the limits of their jurisdiction to improve the housing and material conditions of families of fallen servicemen.

As we see, the state has taken care of their needs. It is another matter when local organs of power, directors of enterprises and institutions, public organizations do not pay sufficient attention to war widows, do not lend them assistance. Much can be done for them by public organizations on the spot, by Komsomol members, Pioneers and schoolchildren.

Military Cadets' Indifference Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 83 p 2

[Response by Engineer-Colonel I. Shvedov to letter from ex-officer]

[Text] Dear editor! I am writing this letter because of something that happened recently. On my way from Tambov to Michurinsk I gave a lift to two cadets of the Tambov Higher Military Aviation Engineering School imeni F. E. Dzerzhinskiy. A conversation ensued. I told my passengers that I envy their youth, that I believe in a radiant future. I have myself given over 25 years of service to the Air Force, and even though circumstances did not permit me to acquire an engineering education, I consider my years of service as fortunate, remembering with fondness the life and concerns of the regiment, the relationship with my army comrades. The response was quite unexpected. The cadets lamented that they had chosen a military specialty of little promise, were doomed to being "eternal captains." Naturally, I objected, citing my own case as an example: even though mine was only a secondary technical education, I wound up my service with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. However, my arguments failed to convince the cadets: you, they said, were lucky in the service. Whether we'll have the same luck nobody knows. With that we parted company at the next turn.

This was several days ago, but I'm still unable to calm down. If such is your mood, you cannot master this, to my mind, most interesting of military specialties. As for its being unpromising, I think that such an opinion is groundless. I am writing in the hope that KRASNAYA ZVEZDA will help the future officers to dismiss their erroneous views.

Reserve Lt Col G. Grigor'yev

We showed this letter to Eng-Col I. Shvedov, chief engineer for aviation equipment of the Moscow Military district air force. Here are his views on the subject:

I fully agree with reserve Lt Col G. Grigor'yev--the notion that the specialty of aviation engineer holds no promise is totally unfounded. It is my belief that there are no unpromising professions in our army at all. The important thing is to respect your own abilities, to find joy in the business of everyday. As for movement up the service ladder, promotion to higher rank, the opportunities available to aviation engineers are very wide indeed. I would put it this way: each of us selects the service that is most to his liking, later the service selects the most hard-working from our midst.

One of my fellow officers at Air Force headquarters is Lt Col Yuriy Petrovich Sysoyev. He graduated from the Tambov Aviation School when it still ran a secondary military school program. But everybody now knows him as an experienced specialist. He listened to the "eternal captains" story with a smile, remarking that the chief of the Air Force Engineering Academy imeni professor N. Ye. Zhukovskiy, Eng-Col Gen V. Filippov, also began his military career as a flight technician.

The careers of my fellow students at the aviation-engineering school developed in a variety of ways. Candidate of Technical Sciences, Eng Col I. Fedotov, for example, has applied himself to teaching. With Eng-Col S. Bulayev we exchange information whenever the opportunity presents itself. He is the chief engineer for aviation equipment of the Baltic Military district. Many of my classmates came to mind as I was writing this response, and some of them I contacted on the phone. Together we searched our memories to find at least one "eternal captain" from our graduation class. We found none. There just aren't any.

Let me cite a purely personal experience as well. My son once asked me which military profession I consider the most interesting. My answer was: the one I chose myself in my youth. When he followed in my footsteps and enrolled at the Higher Military Aviation Engineering School I felt truly proud.

I fully understand the anxiety expressed by the author of the letter. The mood of the officer candidates, for which there is no basis in fact, could exert a negative influence on their approach to the study process. One thing I've noticed: if a young officer, let alone an officer candidate, gives more thought to his career prospects than to the able, honorable discharge of his duties, then he will indeed have no "luck" in his service career. Conversely, the officers who combine high professionalism with zeal on the job, selflessness in work--and such are the men I have mentioned above--will always be "lucky." Not to notice them, not to give them their due, is simply impossible.

Discrepancies in Navy Planning Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 83 p 2

[Response by Vice Adm V. Korobov: "Is There a Remedy Against Foul-ups?"]

[Text] Dear Editors! Starting a new academic year, ship commanders and staffs make detailed plans covering the activities of their crews for the short and long-term future. Without such planning it is impossible to determinedly and consistently cope with the tasks facing the men of the Navy.

Of course, life does not stand still, it adds its own corrections into our plans. This does not affect the rhythm of combat training--the commanders try to foresee

possible amendments while still in the planning stage. However, some of those corrections are absolutely unpredictable. These influence the rhythmicity of plan fulfillment which willy-nilly adversely affects the efficacy of our work.

On one occasion we set out for sea to carry out our assigned tasks. Not long afterwards a radiogram came to the effect that the support units we were counting on would be sent out later than originally planned. Of course, in such cases there are "reserve" activities to fall back on. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of the cruise turned out lower than planned. This subsequently gave rise to exceedingly strenuous work. Full of their own surprises are our relations with repair and provisioning organs. In this area foul-ups in plan fulfillment sometimes begin to acquire the character of a law of nature.

For example, a ship must by regulation be filled up with fuel and water in good time before a cruise. It happens, though, that the tanker comes along only a few hours before sailing time. Instead of readying the gear and machinery for sea the crew is redirected to taking on supplies. Another example: we had arranged for an inspection and checkup of the fire control setup before firing practice. However, the experts arrived at the last moment. Once again the crew was forced to abruptly change its plans in order to assist in the delayed inspection.

Of course, even though it takes a lot of effort, the crew tries to fulfill all its plans no matter what the cost. A cause for concern, however, is the fact that in some quarters foul-ups are considered inevitable.

Capt 2d Rank V. Yarygin

Responding to Capt 2d Rank V. Yarygin's letter at our request is Chief of Staff of the Red Banner Northern Fleet, Vice Adm V. Korobov:

You, Comrade Yarygin, have touched on an important issue. I can fully understand your anxiety because I myself am constantly involved with planning.

To tell you the truth, miscalculations very similar to the ones you describe happen to other ships too. Especially in the handling of support and supply operations. The reasons for these shortcomings are many, but one thing is certain: behind each stands somebody's mismanagement, passivity, failure to follow through.

Let us look at the Technical Administration of the Navy. A significant part of its specialists served aboard ship and are professionally highly qualified. However, certain officers find it very hard to reorganize their work so as to raise it to the level of contemporary demands. For this we have taken to task the departmental chiefs and the leadership of the Technical Administration, insisting that they view every item in the fleet's plan as a law to be strictly adhered to and carried out.

There can be no doubt that if responsible personnel would in all cases and at all times display persistence and singleness of purpose in carrying through the decisions taken many of the snags would not arise. And ship's officers would not have to drop their direct responsibilities to play the role of procurer and pusher. Sometimes, though, ship and unit commanders and flagship specialists erect their own barriers. I have had occasion to review cases when planned support operations were derailed because the procurement requests and itemized lists were made out in violation of standard forms and deadlines.

Such an incomplete document is brought in from a ship--and completely forgotten. There is no further interest on the ship's part as to how the request is being honored or why the work the ship needs done has not been included in the appropriate plan. In these matters it would certainly not hurt to correlate the possibilities of the parties concerned. This would significantly reduce, perhaps eliminate altogether, instances of inadequate consideration in the planning process of these or those ships' interests and needs.

But even with timely, precision planning meeting deadlines is sometimes a problem. Not infrequently it is the ships' commanders who are to blame. Some, for instance, use any pretext to have planned target practice deferred to a later date or, in other words, more favorable conditions. This amounts to a struggle for good marks, not expertise.

Such tendencies lead to a shift in the time frame of the entire chain of interrelated measures, which in turn engenders crash work to fulfill the plan at any cost. These, though, are the very things planning seeks to avoid, because shock work is characterized by simplification, a lowering of standards in training procedures, irrational use of time, effort and materials.

Of course, life does call for corrections to be made. That is only natural, and we must be prepared for it. What is needed is flexibility, efficiency, a subtle understanding of the reality of the situation and the capabilities of the units and ships. In this respect there are still a great deal of untapped reserves at the basic level.

Just before the start of the training year I visited a surface task force and saw for myself how the planning of combat training was organized. I must say that they displayed an overall creative spirit, a scientific approach to the planning process. At the same time, though, in some matters

the staff did not demonstrate sufficient flexibility. Thus, problems related to the heightening of combat readiness were not thought out to the end. Especially obvious was the absence of synchronization between some training exercises and their designated support and interaction units. That is why, Comrade Yarygin, it sometimes happens that a ship goes to sea for training exercises, but it turns out that through the fault of certain persons in authority the support units concerned were not informed in time.

In drawing up a plan and in the process of implementing it one should clearly understand that its strict discipline and the room for maneuver it provides create the optimum conditions for heightening the combat readiness of units and ships. Moreover, rooted in the plan itself is a demand to perfect the administrative process, to seek for the most effective means and methods in the achievement of the goals assigned.

Plan discipline, even within the framework of one ship, today depends not only on her captain and crew, but on numerous persons in authority, on various sections of the unit, the task force and even the fleet as well. That is why the struggle to maintain rhythmicity in carrying out combat training plans calls for precision, for recognition by all concerned of their high professional and party responsibility for the job entrusted to them. We see in this the main remedy against foul-ups, a guarantee of rhythmicity in the implementation of combat training plans.

12258

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GROUND FORCES

SOME ARTILLERY OFFICERS LACK NEEDED SKILLS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen Arty I. Makarenko, commander of Rocket and Artillery Troops of the Central Group of Forces: "We Are Producing Firing Experts"]

[Text] I would like to see more articles in the news-paper dealing with the development of the artillery officers and the improvement of their professional skills.-- Guards Captain V. Malashin, artillery battalion chief of staff.

In one of the recent tactical exercises with field firing I had the opportunity to observe the actions of personnel in the battalion commanded by Guards Lieutenant Colonel R. Kekua. I want to emphasize the fact that the artillerymen gave no cause for embarrassment. They performed with precision and confidence and demonstrated a high level of professional skill throughout the entire exercise--on a march through difficult mountain and forest terrain, when deploying at unprepared fire positions and during the firing. All of the fire missions assigned to the battalion were successfully accomplished with minimal ammunition consumption.

It was pointed out at the critique of the exercise that the victory over the opposing side in the combined-arms battle was achieved in great part due to the successful performance of the artillerymen, particularly the men under Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kekua. They proved themselves to be real firing experts. This was only natural. It reflected the constant concern demonstrated by the unit commander, staff and party organization and by the subunit commanders for improving the personnel's fire training, particularly that of the officers, and for developing firing masters. Last year all of the fighting men in the regiment fulfilled their socialist commitments to raise their ratings. Ten officers became masters of combat skill.

Master of artillery fire.... These words have always meant a great deal. To-day, however, they are especially meaningful. There are objective reasons for this: primarily the significant qualitative changes which our branch of troops has undergone as a result of the revolution in military affairs.

With the coming of fundamentally new equipment to the forces, including artillery systems with a higher rate of fire, greater firing range accuracy and more powerful ammunition, as well as new reconnaissance and fire control equipment, the artillery has become an even more awesome force in the hands of the combined arms commander. Naturally, all of this is also having an effect upon the artillery commander's combat work.

For the artillery officer being a master means primarily being able to skillfully direct the subunit's fire. An extremely important criterion for defining his skill is the reduction in time between the opening of fire and the completion of the mission.

As a result of the increased extent and complexity of the missions facing the artillery in all types of modern combat, increased demands are being made of the tactical training of battalion and battery commanders. One of the components of that training is the ability to maintain close interaction with the motorized riflemen and tankmen, with the subunits of other branches of troops and with aircraft.

The vast majority of artillery officers in our group of forces have these qualities. People of great political maturity and professional training, they successfully perform the tasks involved in training and indoctrinating their subordinates and prepare them to perform in the complex conditions of modern combat, to achieve victory over a powerful, well trained and technically outfitted enemy.

In many of our units and subunits marked progress has been made in the preparation of masters of artillery fire during the current training year. Along with the battalion commanded by Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kekua, I should mention the good professional training of the men under Majors V. Belkin and V. Knyaz'kov, Guards Captain A. Sevast'yanov and others.

I would like to illustrate what goes into the success of the outstanding military collectives, using the example of the unit in which Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kekua serves. The improvement of the firing skills of the officers and of all the personnel in this unit is based on the undeviating fulfillment of the combat and political training program and on constant concern that each exercise be of high quality.

Drills in firing and fire control, training, demonstration and qualification firings, conferences, comprehensive classes and tactical exercises, contests and competitions, and independent training--all of these things serve the purpose of perfecting the commander's skill in the unit.

The commander and staff strictly monitor the officer's training in the batteries, each of whom receives an individual monthly assignment based on the combat training plans and the commitments in the competition. Their fulfillment is regularly summed up, and immediate steps are taken if someone begins to fall behind. Brief tactical exercises are conducted at least three times a week. Tasks involving the tactics of the artillery's combat employment, fire control, the organization of artillery reconnaissance and interaction

with the motorized riflemen and the tank subunits are performed in these exercises.

Naturally, special attention is also given to the officer's training. Firing and fire control exercises and drills are always conducted in a tactical setting, in complicated circumstances, and in a comprehensive manner.

Regularity is an extremely important factor in their effectiveness. They never deviate from the established rule that every officer is required to go to the rifle range twice a week. He may go more frequently, but never less frequently. This is a good rule.

I also have to mention another interesting way of organizing the competition--the performance of the tasks and the meeting of norms by teams made up of officers.

I recall one of my trips to this unit. I went to an exercise in the battalion commanded by Guards Lieutenant Colonel Kekua and saw the following picture. The battalion commander himself was performing the layer's duties, and the chief of staff and the battery commanders were operating as gun crew members. They accomplished one task, then a second and a third. After each task the battalion commander would briefly summarize... and then back to the weapon.

"It is essential for us to work as members of officer teams," the battalion commander said, wiping a drop of sweat off his forehead. "The artillery officer must be able to take the place of any gun crew member...."

This approach to the matter is a guarantee of the young officer's rapid professional development. Guards Senior Lieutenant R. Mukhametgatov was relatively recently appointed battery commander, for example. Today he is one of the best firing masters and a specialist 1st class.

I have to admit, however, that we still have officers whose firing skill does not measure up to today's demands. They lack knowledge of the theoretical principles of artillery fire and fire control skills. As they perform the fire missions, some officers sometimes perform routinely, without initiative, and lose their heads if the situation becomes complicated during the battle.

In a recent exercise involving field firing Captain V. Georkov, a battery commander, was assigned the mission of directing battalion fire. Unfortunately, the officer could not cope with the mission assigned to him. Major O. Antonov, battalion chief of staff, who was in charge of the battalion fire control post, could have rectified the effects of his errors. It is one of his main functions to organize control over the actions of the battery commanders. This control element did not perform any better, however. The battalion received a low rating as a result.

It would be appropriate at this point to underscore the fact that the artillery battalion is the main firing unit. It is a task of prime importance to achieve coordination in the actions of all elements of this combat unit. And a significant role goes to the development of interoperability among the separate

elements in the single fire control system. We say that the commander's observation post of any battery must be capable of taking over battalion fire control. Constant attention is given to this matter in the exercises. The incident involving Captain Georkov, however, shows that the work in this area is in need of further improvement.

The training of senior battery officers is another problem. I served in that position five years and I know from my own experience how much the firing accuracy depends upon the precision of the work performed by the senior battery officers at the fire position. I owe a great deal of my development to Colonel M. Sobolev, Hero of the Soviet Union, unit commander and frontline fighter who subsequently became a lieutenant general of artillery.

He referred to the senior officers as "whales," which supports the accuracy of the artillery's combat fire. Perhaps there is a bit of exaggeration in this use of words, but it would nonetheless be difficult to overstate the role of the training of this category of specialists for the achievement of success in a battle. And it was with good reason, of course, that Mikhail Ivanovich Sobolev, made wise by his frontline experience, knew all of the senior battery officers by name and did not miss an opportunity to attend competitions among them.

I cannot help recalling in this connection a recent conversation with the commander of one unit. I learned that he had an extremely superficial knowledge of the training level of the senior battery officers. This is what brought the conversation about. At a battery fire position I had noticed shells laid out in the burning sun. It was apparent that the senior battery officer did not attach any significance to this. I learned that he was new in his position. Failure to know that firing accuracy is affected when ammunition lies in the sun is unforgiveable even for a new man, however.

A subsequent investigation showed that this incident reflected a low level of work performed with men in this position on the unit scale. Firing accuracy depends to a crucial degree upon the correctness with which the gun is lined up and readied for firing, upon the selection of the aiming point and the selection of the proper shells for the target and their distribution among the guns in accordance with the markings--upon these and other operations performed under the supervision of the senior officers. Underestimating the importance of the work performed with them is to doom oneself to failure.

It is especially important to say something about the professional training of officers in the regimental and battalion artillery. The fact is alarming that some of the combined-armed commanders do not take into account the increased demands made of the artillery, do not concern themselves adequately with improving the skills of officers in this branch of troops and underestimate the role of firing and fire control drills. They are conducted irregularly as a result, with significant indulgences and simplifications. Naturally, it would be difficult to expect improvement in the professional skill of the artillery commanders in such a situation. It is not surprising, for example, that not a single master of artillery fire has been produced during the past 2 years in the unit in which Guards Major G. Feygin is chief of artillery.

Decisions coming out of the December 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee direct us to further perfect the work-style, to do everything possible to establish earnestness, initiative and responsibility for the assigned job in the work-style. Translated into the language of our specific tasks, these requirements involve showing greater concern for developing firing masters, among other things. The staff of the group's rocket and artillery troops are taking precisely this approach to the organization of the winter combat training and socialist competition in the units and the subunits. We are striving to see that specific goals for professional growth are outlined in each officer's commitments and that these commitments are undeviatingly fulfilled. It is the duty of every officer to become a master of his job.

11499

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GROUND FORCES

FORMER DEP. COM. MOTOR RIFLE BATTALION IN AFGHANISTAN PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col A. Alyab'yev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "A Marvelous Meld"]

[Text] A letter arrived from the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Officers and enlisted men of the motorized rifle battalion in which he, Major Gennadiy Kuchkin, had been deputy commander for political affairs, inquired about how his studies at the academy were going and told him about their concerns and affairs. The impression from that letter did not leave Gennadiy all day long. In his thoughts he was back there where his comrades had remained. Gennadiy recalled the last day and his parting with them down to the smallest detail....

"It's time," the battalion commander said.

Gennadiy nodded his head in agreement. He took a long look at the faces of his colleagues, trying to impress them in his mind forever. They had experienced so much together, had travelled so many roads and undergone so many trials during his tour of duty in Afghanistan!

It had been the same sort of evening that other time. The subunit which included Captain Kuchkin, deputy battalion commander for political affairs, had been accompanying a column hauling freight. It was freight for peaceful purposes, so needed by the villagers (dekhkan). They frequently encountered obstructions and mined areas along the way. They covered the kilometers with difficulty. It was even more difficult in the mountains. The enemies (dushman) might open fire at any time.

They attacked the column at the very peak of a steep pass, counting on surprise, on the darkness and on the protective mountain ridge. Afterwards, as his colleagues recalled those minutes, they always singled out the political worker. They spoke of his calmness, his iron self-control, his contempt for danger, and his competence, of the fact that he was there where it was most difficult and always alongside those who needed support....

Kuchkin experienced danger many times. He rescued Afghan fighting men who found themselves on roads packed with enemy mines.... And once again, as always, he

was there where a man of strong will, a good example, was most needed, where things were the most difficult. This was his duty as a political worker. He was taught this by his father, an airborne troop who fought on the front and met death face to face many time. Captain Kuchkin had also looked death in the eyes. He had never averted his own eyes, however,.... "He has character!" they say of him. The best features of the fighting men and of the political worker are melded together in his character. A marvelous meld!

Kuchkin is young in years. He has a great deal of experience as a political worker, however. Experience acquired in extremely difficult situation as a result of his tension-filled job. Selflessness, the greatest sense of responsibility for the assigned area of the work, infinite fidelity to his military duty, a constant readiness to be useful to the men--these are the most salient features of Hero of the Soviet Union, Officer G. Kuchkin....

"It is time," he heard again.

Gennadiy looked around once more. In a minute or so he would leave his comrades.

Moscow and studies at the academy awaited him.

Now he was a student at the Military Political Academy imeni V.I. Lenin. He was promoted to the rank of major. In his letter to his friends, Gennadiy would tell them that he was receiving nothing but excellent grades and that he frequently addressed school children, students, workers and fighting men, telling them how the Soviet fighting men are fulfilling their international duty with honor and dignity.

11499

CSO: 1801/224

GROUND FORCES

COMBAT TRAINING IN URAL MILITARY DISTRICT DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Major N. Medvedev, Red Banner Ural Military District: "A New Simulator"]

[Text] Major Nikolay Yakovlevich Medvedev has been designated a permanent correspondent of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA for the Red Banner Ural Military District. Today we publish his article on combat training.

At the district headquarters it was recommended that I visit this tank training regiment. "Much can be learned here about training specialists for the troops," said Major General V. Nesterenko, the chief of the district directorate of military training and VUZes. "For example, the simulator designed by Captain Uretskiy is quite interesting."

That is how I first heard about Captain Uretskiy's simulator. Anyway, I was shortly in that cantonment. First I went to the regiment headquarters. I took one letter from the pile of letters shown to me which were addressed to the regiment commander. In it Sergeant A. Tsyplenok thanked the officers for the excellent school and reported that in his company there were many recent graduates of this tank training regiment.

The past training year was concluded with excellent results. Along with the other factors which influenced the success was the fact that here they skillfully used simulators and other training devices.

In fact, regardless of the subject practiced in classes in the regiment, one sensed the aspiration of the officers to conduct them on a high methodical level, to see that each trainee did not simply assimilate a certain amount of knowledge and acquire the necessary skills, but that he did this with enthusiasm, giving his all. This was especially noticeable in the simulator classrooms. There are two in the regiment. Also many stands and visual aids constructed by the hands of the regiment's skilled craftsmen-rationalizers. The first one that should be named is Captain E. Uretskiy, commander of the tank training platoon.

This officer is well known not only in his own regiment, but in many units of the district as well: Uretskiy--the inventor of the simulator which has

won the recognition "Ural-5". There is perhaps no need to clarify the first part of the designation, but the numeral "5" means that the present simulator had four predecessors.

It all started a year ago. At that time Captain Uretskiy got the idea to create a simulator for teaching students accurate firing skills from a tank, and not just any one, but something better than a factory-made simulator. "You're wasting your time!", some of his co-workers said with distrust. But Uretskiy was persistent in achieving his goal. Using his own designs and materials at hand, he built the original version of the simulator. Sergeants and soldiers of the platoon helped him put it together. They tested the innovation. The results exceeded all expectations. Whereas before the platoon had average marks on weapon training, at the next qualification firings they had only excellent results.

Officers of the entire regiment started coming to look at Captain Uretskiy's simulator. One of the first to arrive at the company was Lieutenant Colonel B. Alekseyev. He has always had a taste for technical creativity. He supported Uretskiy and recommended that he continue development of the simulator.

The thing is that on factory simulators only some of the elements of firing are worked out. The new design makes it possible to perform in the proper sequence all operations. Also, the gunner can operate as a pair with the tank commander. And this is not all. A great advantage of the simulator was the fact that the crew positions were rather accurately reproduced in it and in working out operations, various target scenarios were created.

The innovator was supported by the regiment commander and the deputy chief of the district military training and VUZes, Colonel N. Karabut. The necessary working conditions were set up for the inquisitive officer and assistants assigned to him.

Before long, a new version of the simulator was ready. It was tested right there in the regiment. Experts Captains Yu. Kuimasov, V. Kozhevnikov and other officers mastered it.

Research specialists from district headquarters familiarized themselves with the simulator. They recognized it as an effective device for teaching the skills of conducting fire from a modern tank. The quest of the regiment's rationalizer was supported by the commander-in-chief district forces, Colonel General M. Tyagunov.

Captain Uretskiy's simulator was sent to Moscow. It won recognition and was recommended for use in a number of military districts. They did this in the Red Banner Ural Military District, naturally, before any of them. They built such simulators on a unit basis. At the start of the new training year they are being used with great benefit in many units. The first results of the winter training period attest to the fact that the widespread use of Captain Uretskiy's simulator combined with a high methodical level of instruction and an introduction of competitiveness into it promotes intensification and high effectiveness of the training.

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GROUND FORCES

PASSIVE PARTICIPANTS OF TRAINING EXERCISES CRITICIZED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83) pp 6-7

[Article by ZNAMENOSETS correspondent Lt Col V. Semenchenko, Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District: "Combat Training Quality: Does Everyone Learn in an Exercise?"]

[Text] The question placed in the title hardly is an idle one. Unfortunately junior commanders still are encountered in tactical exercises whose actions conform little with requirements of modern combat. For clarity, let's illustrate this in examples.

On the eve of a field fire exercise Sgt S. Borisenko scrupulously explained to tank gunners where targets would be located and approximately at what distance, what lead should be taken when firing, and so on.

What is this: training or elementary prompting? And is there more benefit or harm from it? The fact is that gunners previously learned possible variants of the target display, the best places for opening fire, range settings, and so on. On the terrain they simply awaited the display of targets instead of performing reconnaissance.

Borisenko also "enlightened" the driver-mechanics. He not only told them where obstacles were located and what kind they were, but also what gear to take them in. The tankmen essentially merely "rolled" over the field without learning anything new.

Personnel of the platoon where Sr Sgt R. Aliyev was acting commander also learned little of benefit for themselves. Before an attack he cautioned the tank commanders and driver-mechanics against risky maneuvers.

"Remember," he warned, "that there are impassable sectors of terrain to the right and left of the main axis. A track can be broken on the boulders or something else can happen, so it is best to follow the well-worn road. The grade won't be lowered for this, but you won't be able to correct matters if only one vehicle is disabled."

As we see, the junior commander consciously allowed for oversimplification in performing the operational training mission. The field exercise hardly served as a school for a growth in tactical proficiency for himself and his subordinates.

Some NCO's at times forget that they and their subordinates are called upon to act throughout an exercise as in actual combat. Here is an example. The tankmen camouflaged the vehicles well; even in clear weather it was hardly possible to detect their position. Then night fell and lantern beams began to flare up in places. For example, Jr Sgt S. Taran came to Sgt P. Kustobayev's crew and together (now with two lanterns) they began to look over a map.

The tankmen also revealed themselves with noise. Some driver-mechanics started engines without need and in the crew commanded by Sgt L. Velichko the soldiers began to check the operation of a night vision device without authorization. It is generally known, however, that enemy reconnaissance equipment can immediately intersect even a brief flash of light or determine the position and type of combat equipment from a characteristic noise.

The signal "Halt. Commanders report to me" sounded at one of the indicated lines during the advance. By regulation the NCO's should have given instructions for concealing the equipment on the terrain and only then arrive at the assembly point. They took the signal as a kind of breather in combat work, however, and headed for the senior commander on a straight line.

The fact is that the commanders mentioned consider themselves and their subordinates exercise participants, but they can be called that only by stretching the point. For various reasons they removed themselves from classes, without which the combat development both of privates and NCO's is impossible. As a result, the KPD [efficiency] of their participation in performance of the assigned missions remained very low. Why?

Above all, it was because of the poor level of the sergeants' practical readiness for particular exercises. As a rule they waste a large amount of training time learning theoretical propositions by heart without always reinforcing them on the terrain or on the combat equipment.

Let's say the features of driving tanks in a company column are being studied. The NCO's scrupulously copy down normative data, grading indicators and many other indicators generally needed by them in the future, but there are almost no notes in the books about what the tank commander, driver-mechanic or gunner must do, for example, in response to the most widespread signal of "Assemble." That is why the people were not able to execute this command correctly in the exercise.

It is generally known that the primary form of training for junior commanders consists of group exercises on the terrain with a transition to actions as part of a crew or platoon. At times this transition appears rather conditional, and in the best case reflects one or two situation variants out of a multitude of those possible in actual combat.

Isn't that why, after studying, let's say, the fine points of making a reference calibration target and the procedure for compiling a check-out card, some tank commanders are helpless when in the interests of a field exercise they have to perform both operations simultaneously within a rigid time limit without ceasing to accomplish other practical tasks?

Life insistently demands evaluating the readiness of NCO's to perform tasks in the field not only based on a knowledge of theory, but also on their practical indicators. In order to spark their interest and give the work a competitive nature, some subunits introduce incentive points for NCO's for initiative, exploration and a nonstandard accomplishment of tasks. This is an additional factor in summarizing results of socialist competition.

In order to preclude having so-called passengers and nonparticipating observers in exercises, many foremost NCO's register their subordinates' step-by-step actions. The records reflect the completeness and quality with which the crew performs the tasks, and specifically from what distance and with which round did the gunner hit a target, which crew member issued target designations more precisely, how long did moving and bobbing targets go unhit, was their importance and danger correctly determined, and what was the overall rate of fire and other characteristics?

The account of all this spurs the trainees on to a certain extent; it is also beneficial to the NCO in preparing for the next field exercises and, finally, it can be used during an exchange of experience. During subsequent analysis the figures and notes also suggest topics for supplementary classes.

Every subunit has possibilities for preparing for the exercise more fully and being on top of a situation in the field. A practice of hearing officers' accounts about readiness and methods of accomplishing missions assigned for the exercise has given a good account of itself among troop units, and why not have the NCO's adopt it? The verbal accounts can alternate with reports about the fulfillment of preparatory exercises and topics which have been covered and about the results of practices. For example, it is useful to discuss variations of actions in various stages of an exercise, listen to advice from senior comrades, and share the experience of organizing the training and indoctrination of subordinates in the field within the circle of company NCO's. In short, major reserves have been uncovered here and they must be used more fully.

Exercises are called a school of combat training, but a passive presence in the field does not in itself produce the desired results. Tactical proficiency comes only through strenuous, painstaking military work in a crew, team or squad without any oversimplification. This is why it is important for junior commanders to have a clear picture of their role in organizing subordinates' actions--actions that are spirited and genuinely instructive, from the first to the last phase of a field exercise.

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GROUND FORCES

ORGANIZATION OF COORDINATION IN NIGHT COMBAT DESCRIBED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83) pp 6-7

[Article by Sgt V. Kravchenko, deputy commander of motorized rifle platoon, Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District: "A Soldier Is Not Alone in the Field"]

[Text] "I am sure that junior commanders will read with interest an article in the journal about the organization of coordination in night combat."

From a comment at a readers' conference by Gds Jr Sgt K. Khachatryan.

In a little over 1½ years of service I repeatedly have had occasion to perform duties in night exercises in my own position and at one level higher. I can judge from my own experience that the success of a night attack depends largely on coordination well arranged and maintained throughout the action. I remind the readers that it consists of coordinating efforts among squads in the platoon and its attached weapons based on missions, lines and time. I try to clarify all this "what," "how," "where" and "when" down to the fine points in order to know not only my own maneuver, but also my duties with respect to those with whom the motorized riflemen go into the attack side by side.

For example, in preparing for an attack in one of the last exercises I coordinated actions in all details while it was still light with squad commanders junior sergeants A. Semenov and V. Ivlev, as well as with adjacent platoons and with commanders attached to the platoon: tank commander Sgt S. Yarosh and rocket launcher squad commander Sgt I. Narkulev. I clarified with them the procedure for moving up to the line of departure and line of deployment, for negotiating obstacles, for conducting fire from small arms, BMP's [infantry fighting vehicles] and tanks, and other matters.

I paid particular attention to having all attackers maintain the direction. Nothing would seem simpler: adapt to the movement of the fighting vehicles and don't stray aside. That is what we do when the tanks and BMP's are in the skirmish line of the dismounted subunits, but during an attack the combat vehicles may be ahead of or behind us as well. That is why I try to have every rifleman memorize reference points on the axis of attack. Some NCO's use only those assigned by the commander, but I have seen from experience that

at night one can't get by without supplementary reference points. These may be separate centers of fire or very pronounced local features, preferably with high reflectivity within the effective range of night sights. These additional "markers" along the attackers' path help adjust subordinates' movement, execute a maneuver quickly, and give a target designation from the reference points.

At the same time, I would like to caution against a mistake which at times is made by squad commanders. Supplementary reference points are suited for internal squad use, but for coordination with adjacent units and attached weapons and in reports to the senior commander one should use only the reference points the senior commander designated without mixing up their numbers in any instance.

Successful coordination also is impossible without all the personnel knowing the azimuth of attack to the depth of the mission. This is especially important when an attack begins suddenly, and great responsibility rests here on the squad assigned as the leading squad in the platoon. Jr Sgt A. Semenov's subordinates played this part successfully more than once. The entire attacking platoon would line up on them as they strictly maintained a given direction according to the azimuth, established reference points, or alignment lights.

I have had occasion to see that it becomes more and more difficult to maintain coordination as an attack develops. The unevenness in movement of organic and attached weapons leads to the appearance of exposed flanks, which is what the counterattacking "enemy" attempts to use. These difficulties, too, can be anticipated, however, by providing for coordination procedures in such situations. To this end I determine ahead of time the line and direction from which "enemy" counterattacks are possible and specify what forces and means will be used to repulse them.

For example, a brook with steep banks once blocked the attackers' path. Motorized riflemen on foot went around the tanks, crossed the natural barrier and rushed forward. After taking up positions behind the nearest cover, the tanks and BMP's supported the attack by fire from in place, then the combat vehicles crossed the obstacle in an accessible sector under cover of the fire of artillery and the motorized riflemen and they again were in the attackers' combat formation. This method of coordination ensured nonstop forward movement.

Previously we used a much larger number of light signals for control and coordination, but experience showed that the fewer, the better. Even without them the attackers see ahead of them a sea of fires from rockets, illuminating artillery and mortar rounds, and tracer bullets fired both by us and the opposing side. We therefore kept only the most necessary and the simplest signals. For example, if the platoon had to re-form quickly or change its direction of movement, I would take my place in the leading squad and identify myself with short flashes of a flashlight, then would give the established signal "Do what I do" or "Follow me." This would allow the motorized riflemen to move ahead without delay to a favorable line for repulsing a counterattack or for giving fire cover to an exposed flank, or execute any other maneuver for those with whom they were coordinating.

In striving to see that the use of weapons with night sights and other weapons is coordinated, I distribute them evenly in the combat formation. Considering the high effectiveness of aimed fire from a weapon with a night vision device, the rifleman who is armed with such a weapon is given the task of hitting targets not only ahead of him, but also to the right or left. Sniper Pvt K. Shabanov and RPK [Kalashnikov light machinegun] machinegunner Pvt K. Sharipov, next to each other in the skirmish line, more than once have set the example of mutual help in a night attack.

For convenience in conducting fire and for adapting better to the terrain, soldiers in the skirmish line may advance somewhat ahead or to one side without disrupting the general direction of the attack frontage or interfering with their neighbors' actions. These skills must be honed even more under conditions of limited visibility. Bunching of the combat formation and loss of contact with cooperating tanks and other attached weapons in the darkness are especially dangerous as one may come under fire of friendly weapons. This is why I practice with subordinates so thoroughly the techniques of coordination in night tactical drill problems. At the same time, I accustom the soldiers during night actions not to fear losing close contact with neighbors, and such practices have had a positive effect on the motorized riflemen's training. During the exercise they would move quickly to the "enemy" flank and rear while adapting to folds in the terrain and contributing to development of the squad's overall success. The personnel were sure that safety measures would not be violated and they would not come under friendly fire, since everyone has a firm knowledge of mutual recognition signals.

I would like to say in conclusion that maintaining coordination is not just the commander's job. Every soldier, no matter what weapon he has, must remember that he is not alone on the battlefield and so he is obligated to maintain close fire and tactical coordination with the person fighting next to him and give help to a comrade in the skirmish line or to a tank by accurate fire, by a target designation or by a maneuver. I instil such responsibility for overall success in my subordinates.

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GROUND FORCES

DAILY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR TANKS, COMBAT VEHICLES

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83) pp 8-9

[Article by Engr-Col A. Kolesnikov, doctor of technical sciences, and Engr-Lt Col A. Kolesnik: "The Methods Specialist's Advice: Daily Maintenance"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] The editors plan to publish a number of articles under a new rubric, "The Methods Specialist's Advice," intended for giving practical help to senior company technicians in keeping equipment in high combat readiness.

In today's international situation where the threat of attack on the part of imperialism hovers more and more ominously over countries of socialism, the USSR Armed Forces are faced with the task of vigorously opposing the planned aggression, which means strengthening their combat readiness in every way.

Thorough servicing of combat vehicles is one of the conditions for improving readiness of armored equipment for action. As troop practice shows, the timely and quality performance of all kinds of servicing additionally permits taking maximum advantage of all design capabilities of the equipment, preventing the appearance of chance malfunctions, significantly extending the service life of individual assemblies and units, and saving fuel and lubricants.

For example, over a little more than the last five years there has not been a breakdown in the tank of WO [Praporshchik] V. Devda from the Carpathian Military District. WO L. Soskanov from this same district saves 2-3 tons of fuel annually thanks to keeping the BMP [infantry fighting vehicle] from the operational training group in excellent condition. Tens on hundreds of other examples can be given which indicate that a thrifty attitude toward equipment and solicitous care of it is repaid with interest.

DAILY MAINTENANCE (YETO) is the most widespread form of servicing for tanks and infantry fighting vehicles. It is performed after the vehicles return to the motor pool and, under field conditions (during exercises), after making a march, in breaks between "fights" or at the day's end. The vehicle must not have traveled more than 200-250 km.

It must be emphasized that special attention must be given in performing YeTO to the quality of operations being performed and to prophylaxis, i.e., to the prevention of malfunctions and timely replacement of operating materials and worn-out parts and assemblies. It has been established that up to 20 percent of vehicle malfunctions appearing in the process of operation were caused by violations of their maintenance rules: superficial evaluation of the condition of assemblies, units and systems; nonfulfillment of mandatory kinds of work; nonobservance of periods for equipment servicing; use of poor quality operating materials; and violation of rules for disassembly and assembly of components.

The duration of daily maintenance depends both on the vehicle's design features and on its condition. The time norms for performing YeTO are indicated in equipment operating manuals and maintenance manuals. Two to four hours usually are set aside for scheduled work. The extent of YeTO work and the time of performing it are determined by special instructions for those tanks and BMP's which are operated under difficult terrain and climate conditions. We will note in passing that the more that labor-intensive operations are mechanized, such as cleaning, washing, fueling and lubricating, the less time is spent on servicing and its quality improves.

It is understandable that the senior technician has the primary burden of organizing and conducting YeTO on company vehicles. It is advisable for him to proceed in the following manner.

IN THE PREPARATORY PERIOD (before the equipment arrives in the motor pool), he is to have preliminary information, if possible, about the technical condition of the vehicles, he is to submit requisitions for the necessary number of spare parts and operating supplies and he is to arrange to draw them.

IN THE PRIMARY PERIOD (on the equipment's arrival in the motor pool), he is to check the status of each vehicle together with the chief of the regimental KTP [technical control point] and question the crews as to all troubles and malfunctions noticed. He must give a preliminary assessment of the vehicles' technical condition, determine the extent of primary and secondary work, and assign the task to vehicle commanders (driver-mechanics) for performing the servicing, reminding them of safety measures. He is to report to the company commander (or battalion technical supply officer) as to the vehicles' condition and the need to assign additional battalion (regimental) personnel and means for giving the crews help.

IN THE FINAL PERIOD, he is to monitor the completion of work and turn the vehicles over to the motor pool duty officer for safekeeping.

We will recall that the company senior technician is obligated to use the time set aside for vehicle maintenance also to improve the skills of company personnel in their specialty (technical and special training).

The organization and conduct of YeTO is especially important for vehicles of the operational training group, i.e., for those in constant operation. Let us examine one of the variants.

In permanent motor pools vehicles must be serviced at specific locations and in the following sequence. The vehicle is inspected on the equipment inspection pad at the KTP and it is fueled at the fueling point. Cleaning and washing are done at the cleaning and washing point. It is true that if there are roads with hard surface from the motor pool entrances to the washing point tracks can be cleaned of dirt on the pad in front of the motor pool. Inspection of the vehicles' technical condition, the performance of lubrication and adjustment work, fixing malfunctions which have been identified, and monitoring of the quality and completeness of job performance are done at the daily maintenance point. The company commander and battalion technical supply officer are obligated to monitor the quality with which operations are performed periodically.

In order for vehicle maintenance to be performed to the full extent, with high quality and in the time allotted, duties must be redistributed among crew members for this period. (If we assume that each crew member will perform only what his specialty involves, the driver-mechanic will be under the greatest load.) We can recommend for this purpose that crew members' duties be drawn up for vehicle maintenance in the form of operation charts. A version of such a chart for tank (BMP) YeTO is shown in the table [on the next page], where the performers are: K--commander, N--gunner, V--driver-mechanic.

An entry about all malfunctions discovered in the performance of YeTO must be made in the record card for deficiencies in vehicle condition and upkeep and, after the deficiencies are remedied, there must be an appropriate note made by the senior company technician.

It is very important for the senior technician to monitor properly the work performed by the crews. There are many fine points here which an experienced specialist knows well. It is best to perform the check on each system in turn.

In the fuel supply system, for example, one has to determine the extent of residue contamination. The drained fuel residue must be clean and have no mechanical admixtures or water. Five to six liters of the residue must be drained for a check. In checking the fuel filler neck filters, one must remember that there can be no breaks or rust on the filter body and there must be no more than two solders up to 30 mm long at break locations on the filter screens. The fuel distributing cock is checked by turning the handle and there must be no binds.

Adjustment of the fuel pump drive is tested for zero and maximum fuel supply. A feeler leaf is used to measure the clearance between the maximum fuel supply limiting screw and the fuel pump lever lug (with accelerator pedal pressed fully down). The clearance must be within the limits of 0.2-0.3 mm. With zero fuel delivery the fuel pump lever must rest on the zero delivery limiting screw. The condition of the fuel supply pump and air exhaust valve is checked by pumping fuel and simultaneously pressing the air exhaust button. It is easy to be sure of the unit's serviceability by the characteristic sound heard in the process.

YeTO Operation Chart

No	Work Performed	Performers		
		K	N	B
1.	Prepare oil, lubricant and coolant		+	
2.	Fill fuel supply system	+		+
3.	Fill engine cooling system if necessary	+		+
4.	Fill engine oil lubrication system tank			+
5.	Check quality of work performed by crew	+		
6.	At cleaning and washing point:			
	a. Clean and wash tank (BMP) exterior. (Before washing remove canvas from vehicle, and replace and fasten it after washing);	+	+	+
	b. Clean dust and dirt from fighting compartment and equipment therein;		+	
	c. Clean dust and dirt from engine and transmission compartments and inspect radiators;	+		+
	d. Clean dust and dirt from driving compartment and equipment therein	+		+
7.	At daily maintenance point:			
	a. Prepare work station;		+	
	b. Inspect:			
	--Operation of turret supercharger,		+	
	--Serviceability of fighting compartment lighting,		+	
	--Ease of turret rotation with manual drive,		+	
	--Ease of raising and lowering gun manually,		+	
	--Condition of chamber and gun bore,		+	
	--Condition of machinegun,		+	
	--Operation of gun and machinegun electric triggers,		+	
	--Serviceability of weapon interlocks,		+	
	--Condition and attachment of sights,		+	
	--Functioning of automatic loader (or magazine filler),	+	+	
	--Seal of weapon stabilizer hydraulic system,		+	
	--Absence of leakage from final drive covers and from engine systems and transmission components,	+		+
	--Track tension,	+		+
	--Condition and attachment of road wheels, top rollers, idler wheel and driving sprocket,	+		+
	--Reliable attachment of reinforced rubber hoses,	+		+
	--Adjustment of control linkages;	+		+
	c. Remove sediment from moisture and oil separator;			+
	d. Be sure there is no air leak from air system;			+
	e. Clean dirt or dust from contact devices of commander's hatch and turret traverse mechanism;		+	
	f. Wipe glass of vision devices and sight;		+	
	g. Inspect:			
	--Serviceability of horn, headlights and clearance lights,	+		+
	--Ease of opening and closing hatch covers and reliable operation of their locks and stops,	+		+
	--Fastening of storage batteries and reliable connection of wires to terminals,	+		+
	--Ease of opening and closing inlet and outlet louvers,	+		+
	--Degree of storage battery charge;			+
	h. Check quality of work being done by crew;	+		
	i. Start engine and check its operation by ear and by instruments;	+		+
	j. Check functioning of weapon stabilizer and serviceability of firing circuit interlocks;	+	+	+
	k. Service tools and accessories and stow them in authorized places;		+	+
	l. Present tank or BMP for inspection by motor pool duty officer (quality of performance of YeTO and readiness for use are checked);	+		
	m. Clean up work station	+	+	+
8.	Move tank or BMP to parking area with permission of motor pool duty officer	+		+
9.	Make out documents and report the work performed	+		
10.	Perform final cleaning of tank or BMP, close fuel distributing cock, close air cylinder valve, turn battery switch off, close hatches		+	+

- NOTES: 1. The work on points 7 (b, d, g, i, j) is done under the immediate supervision of the company senior technician.
2. Senior company technician monitors the quality of work performance on points No 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 (b, d), 7 (e, k), 10.
3. After performance of YeTO the tank or BMP is turned over to the motor pool duty officer by the company senior technician or company commander.

A check of the air supply system is made by inspecting it. There must be no cracks in the intake manifolds or crimped pipes of the dust separation pipes, no breaks or separation of reinforced rubber hose connections and no dust intake where the air cleaner pipes are connected with the intake manifolds or where dust separation pipes are connected with the air cleaner dust collector and ejector.

A check of the entire vehicle must be made with the very same thoroughness.

During vehicular maintenance it is prohibited to remove or disturb seals on units, assemblies and devices which are not to be opened in the military unit without consent of the manufacturing plants (or repair plants) within limits of the warranty period.

Maintenance of all kinds usually is performed in field motor pools and under conditions of troop combat activity at the vehicle parking area with the help of mobile servicing equipment. In these cases the procedure and sequence for servicing vehicles are set by the unit commander with consideration of specific conditions.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

UZBEK AIR-TRANSPORT PILOTS PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent Colonel V. Filatov: "The Shadjalilovs From the Kishlak [Village] of Kugay"; indented material printed in boldface]

[Text] For starters, a little problem. Given: two similar military transport planes of equal freight-carrying capacity, but the first one actually hauls one and a half times more cargo than the second; where the first has to make three trips, the second does only two. The Shadjalilov brothers are able to cope with the task. Question: what additional resources do they draw on?

A puzzle: why do almost all Uzbek lads who want to become military pilots have for some time now preferred the Orenburg School to all the other flying schools?

And a rhetorical question: diseases kept coming at him one after another, like camels in an endless caravan; in the kishlak's only "aryk," a ditch knee-high to a sparrow, he almost drowned and was saved by a miracle; one time they took him along to the bazaar in the rayon center, and on one of the streets of the center he was hit by the only truck to have driven through for the entire day. An unlucky kid. They'd heard somewhere that the bad luck would end if his name was changed. His name was Mukhamadali. They changed it beyond recognition by lopping off the first part and began calling him Alik. Can you delude destiny?

They saw Mukhamad off in a body. And well they might! This was the first time in the existence of the mudhouse kishlak of Kugay that a lad was going off to Kuybyshev to study in an aviation institute. Mukhamad will build planes. In the old days people like him built only duvals. But Mukhamad was not the first to be leaving Kugay for Kuybyshev to enter that very institute. The first--o wonder of wonders!--was Zul'fiya, Mukhamad's older sister. The young kishlak lass aspired to a trade that no Kugay aksakal with the very whitest and the very longest beard had ever engaged in. One age-old belief was best summed up by the proverb: "Flowers are for plucking, girls are for making fun of." But she went, enrolled and is a third-year student now. The brother will enroll too. It's that kind of family.

The mother, Markhobo: "In the Civil War I lost all my relatives and loved ones--some died by the bullet, some by a basmach sword, some from starvation. I was raised by the Soviet state, it was a mother and father and little brother and little sister to me. I said to myself once: when I marry I will have 10 children so that there'll be a little brother or little sister for each...."

The father, Djura-aka: "We had no children--we were poor. When many children came, we became rich. Zul'fiya, Mukhamad, Alim, Takhir, Zukhra, Kasym, Rustam.... I remember when all was burning, everybody was shouting 'Irgash, Irgash.' He was on the best horse of all. At the head of a band of basmachi. Where do his bones lie? Nobody knows. That time he escaped to China. He would never have left here if it wasn't for the soldiers with the red stars on their peaked hats. I remember it was winter. The snow lay on the ground like pilaf on a flowered dish. And it was cold. They rode up to our field, the red stars, all cheerful. They gave me a hat. When it's snowing and cold it's not good without a hat, that's what they said to me, and galloped away. Afterwards there was a battle in the kishlak. One of those who'd given me the hat was lying by the barn. Dead. I buried him. Many things happened.... Where I buried the Red Army soldier is now the oil-storage yard of our sovkhov, and on its territory is a monument. It is now a sacred spot for the entire kishlak of Kugay...."

They organized a sovkhov in the kishlak and gave it the name of Lenin. Djura became an important man in the sovkhov, a groom. A cavalry horse is needed in battle, a courser is needed every day. The horse is the wings of a man, that's what they always said in Fergana. But then a rumor arose: something called a tractor will come to the kishlak, it's as strong as a herd, two herds of horses. The rumor proved true. Djura was summoned to the office. "You're a groom, so it's up to you to become a tractor driver. The tractor also has horsepower, they say. A lot of it. In one team, too." And they sent Djura to the city to learn how to operate a tractor.

The first furrow dug by a tractor was Djura's. Later there was the first truck in the whole of Fergana, and Djura was the first truckdriver in Fergana. For 51 years he worked tractors and trucks in his native sovkhov. There was only one break, from 1941 to 1945, and that was spent in hauling ammunition to the front lines in a ZIS-5.

The mother recollects: "I did the laundry at night and baked the bread for the children to eat during the day. And in the daytime there was my job. The director of the sovkhov detested watches. He would say: the most precise watch in the world is the sun, when it begins rising, start work, when it sets behind the poplars, stop work. The war came. Afterwards things eased up a bit. They opened a kindergarten, appointed me to manage it. I got all the children of the kishlak under one roof, but there was no place for my own children. Who would look after the house? Work in the garden, the vegetable patch? Who would turn two cows, a bull, the sheep to pasture? Who would keep an eye on the hens? The children did all that. One time some folks from the young people's paper came down, tell us, they said, how

you managed to bring up such fine children. But I didn't bring them up, they did it all by themselves. Who could they have learned anything bad from? In youth--work, in old age--prosperity. Don't judge a djigit by his looks, judge him by his work."

Markhobo worked 33 years for the sovkhos. Was president of the women's council for 20 years running. Has been a member of the CPSU for exactly 20 years.

Son Mukhamad did enter the institute. Attended lectures there and passed his winter exams. But can you delude destiny? Some are fated to build, to create airplanes, others to fly them. Mukhamad quit the institute. He did not write home about it, not wanting to grieve his parents. Got a job in Kuybyshev on a bridge-laying train. When the time came, went to Orenburg to enroll in the Higher Military Aviation School for Pilots imeni I. S. Polbin. And didn't make it.

Mukhamad returned home from Orenburg, neither a student nor a cadet. Went to work in the Central Tractor, Combine and Motor Vehicle Repair Shop. A year later set off for Orenburg again. Build character first, studies come after.... His enviable persistence finally paid off--he was accepted.

He graduated with honors and was posted to the same region where Yuriy Gagarin had his start after [aviation] school--the Polar Circle (Zapolyar'ye).

The father, Djura-aka, remembers the time when his fellow countrymen would say: "We're kishlak people"; and it sounded sad and irrevocable and it meant: "Such is our accursed destiny, and you can't get around destiny, not even on a crooked wheel...."

In due time Alim finished school. The Komsomol obkom presented him with an affidavit: go, lad, enroll in the Foreign Languages Institute, no entrance exams for you. Now, speaking of languages....

The mother: "Our children came into contact with the Russian language from, as they say, the cradle. And the same is true of the kindergarten I managed. That's the way the parents wanted it. We had 60 nationalities in the sovkhos. All one big family. And if it's one family you need one language, else how do you communicate? We learned languages from each other, but Russian was studied by all. How would we understand each other without Russian?"

Mukhamad, to cite an example, aside from Russian speaks fluent English, Polish, Norwegian, Arabic, Farsi and the languages of all the peoples of Central Asia.

For the affidavit to the foreign languages institute Alim said: "Rakhmat--thank you,"--and left for Orenburg to enroll in the aviation school named after the renowned flier Ivan Polbin, to enroll like everyone else--through the strictest possible medical commission, through numerous tests and theoretical exams.

Mukhamad was by then in his third year. There were six applicants for every slot, and Alim lost out in the tough competition. There's no eluding destiny, Alim; go down now to the Foreign Language Institute listed in the Komsomol's affidavit, there's no contest there for you, there are even no entrance exams.

But he went back to the kishlak instead. The very next morning he joined his father in the garage and started working as an automechanic. Like Mukhamad before him, he repaired tractors, combines, motor vehicles, ploughs. How was it that the sons of Markhobo and Djura-aka were able to start fixing tractors, combines, etc. on the spot? In the first place, they used to hang around the hardware with their father round the clock. In the second, in 1963 the rayispolkom authorized the sale to the Shadjalilovs of a "Volga" automobile because theirs was a family with many children. That car served as the toy that made them all into good, professional-level drivers and expert mechanics.

All that year Alim prepared for a second try for the aviation school's airfield in Orenburg, but in the spring the oblast military commissariat's medical commission turned him down flat: he would have to undergo surgery or say goodbye to his dream of flying. Straight away he checked into a hospital and had his operation. He got the green light to go to Orenburg. His second try went off without a hitch.

The three other brothers, Takhir, Rakhim and Rustam, entered the same aviation school after one try. Rustam is now in his last year, but he too has a story to tell. After finishing school he made it into a polytechnical institute. Studied there for 2 years. Everything was just fine. And then all of a sudden he asked for his papers and left for that same Orenburg to enroll in that same aviation school. Completing his studies there, he got the kind of job assignment one can only dream about--to a construction and design bureau. He even worked there for a spell, had several commendations, when suddenly, like with Mukhamad, like with Alim and Rakhim and Takhir, everything turned completely around. At present he is training with the aviation club of DOSAAF [All-Union Voluntary Society for Assisting the Army, Air Force and Navy of USSR]. When I was in the house of Djura-aka and Markhobo in Tashkent the phone rang. It was Kasym calling from the airfield. He had joyous news--he'd just completed his first solo flight. In addition, he had applied for admission to the Air Force as a military pilot, like Mukhamad, Alim, Takhir....

The mother: "I didn't tell you all when I said I'd get married and have 10 children. I also told my husband that they'd all be boys and would all go into the military. So as there'd be enough men to defend the Motherland. So as we'd never have orphans again like I was. You reap what you sow; you get what you give...."

The father lived through the long-ago days of the beys and the basmachis, and he sometimes finds it hard to believe that if you want to, say, build airplanes, they'll teach you to build airplanes; you want to fly those airplanes, they'll teach you to fly.

The father sometimes finds it hard to believe it's all as simple as that; the children find it strange that it could be otherwise. It all transpired during the lifetime of one generation. There is no problem of fathers and sons here. The fathers fought for such a life for their children and prevailed. What do the children grow up to become? Whatever they dreamed of being, that they become.

Alim graduated from the aviation school and asked to be sent to the Polar Circle. The request was granted. He served together with Mukhamad. In different units, perhaps, but they lived in the same settlement town, in the same house, in the same apartment--Mukhamad's. Both had observed NATO pilots through the canopies of their own craft. Fergana is a long way from the Polar Circle. Only in your thoughts and dreams is it close by, and, too, in the realization that the peace and well-being of Fergana begins here in Zapolyar'ye where a stretch of the national border runs. The country is like one big living organism: if you hurt so much as the tip of the little finger, the pain will spread to every part of the body.

Mikhamad and Alim were flying the most modern craft as crew captains. The parents would bring the younger siblings over from Fergana to the Polar Circle. The entire family would go to the airfield when Mukhamad and Alim were on flight duty. Each person must well know where the security frontier runs of his kishlak, his village, his city....

The road to the sky, where does it begin?

Djura-aka is quiet, then starts to speak about the burial place of that Red Army man: it is even better cared for now than before.

Up until recently all four brothers served in the same air regiment. That was after the Polar Circle. There are three left in the regiment now. Takhirzhan, a squadron leader and major, was promoted and transferred to another unit. It was Takhirzhan who a while back flew the first transport plane into Afghanistan with medicines, food and fuel aboard. Later he made many such trips, as witnessed by the Order of the Red Banner on his tunic. All the other brothers are also flying food and medicaments to Afghanistan: Mukhamadali, a major, commands an Antonov-12 unit; Alimzhan, a major too, is crew captain of an Antonov-12; Rakhimzhan, a captain, is crew commander of an Antonov-26, he has been decorated with the order "For service to the Motherland in the Armed Forces of the USSR" III class.... We did some figuring, and it turned out that the Shadjalilov brothers had logged a combined flight time of over 14,000 hours. They are all First Class pilots, and all are communists.

In the East they say: "He who walks in front is a bridge for the one that walks behind." Very true. There are days when one or another of the brothers, sometimes all of them, put on their dress uniforms in the morning and depart the unit's quarters. This is another kind of assignment, with other points of call--a

secondary school, a technical and vocational school, a factory or rural house of culture. There they speak to young people of pre-conscription age. Not long ago all the Shadjalilov brothers visited Uzbekistan at the invitation of the republic Komsomol Central Committee, and together with their mother and father travelled across their native republic, visiting Namangan in the process. The city and the oblast were at that time conducting readings on the heroico-patriotic theme "The image of the defender of the Motherland, a patriot and an internationalist." In 3 days, the Shadjalilovs had eight meetings with the youth of the city and the oblast. Each member of the family played an active part.

When the official part was over, the unofficial would begin--an endless array of questions and close personal chats. One such encounter was aired on the republic TV for 40 minutes.

The house of the parents of the Shadjalilov pilots has long ago become the focal point for letters written by strangers from all over the republic, for a continuous stream of elderly visitors whose sons are thinking of an officer's career in the Army or Navy, and for young visitors who have decided to enter a military school after graduating from secondary school. There are endless conversations in the shade of the apple trees in the garden about the truly important issues: who should be called to defend the Motherland, how she should be defended, the place sons occupy in one's life. When the sons are home on furlough they join in on these perpetual conversations with the guests. Markhobo and Djura-aka have 11 grandsons. "The grandsons will be warriors, just like the sons," she promises.

Grandmother and grandfather Shadjalilov have several diplomas from the DOSAAF Central Committee for their active participation in mass defense propaganda and the military-patriotic education of youth. After a recent meeting in a house of culture where the entire family spoke, 72 young secondary-school graduates expressed a desire to apply for military school. Naturally, the pilot brothers' most vivid stories are about their alma mater, the aviation school in Orenburg. This is why the school has had so many cadets from Uzbekistan in recent years.

Markhobo and Djura-aka have nine children. It follows, then, that Markhobo did not quite make good on her word.... Seven have a higher education, the rest are VUZ students. Six are members of the CPSU. Five are in the military, four are officer pilots, one an aviation school cadet. It's that kind of family.

And now, back to the two similar-type planes which have the same freight-carrying capacity, but which nevertheless haul different amounts of cargo. What additional resources does the winning carrier draw on? The secret is simple: an average pilot embarking on a long trip takes along as much fuel as possible "just in case," as additional insurance, you never know. Mukhamadali with his very competent navigator and a crew that functions

like clockwork take on the exact amount of fuel needed--"just in case" and "you never know" simply do not enter the picture. The fuel not taken on is replaced by additional cargo. That is how one and the same craft can haul more or less cargo--it all depends on who is at the controls, who the navigator is, what kind of crew you have. It is all a matter of skill.

12258

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

ENGR-COL GEN A.N. PONOMAREV PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Col V. Moroz, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "The Happiness of Difficult Paths"]

[Text] I spoke with Engineer-Colonel General Aleksandr Nikolayevich Ponomarev, doctor of technical sciences and holder of the State Prize of the USSR, in his office. It is on the second floor of the famous Petrov Palace, occupied by the Military Air Engineering Academy imeni Professor N.Ye. Zhukovskiy.

"Back before the revolution," Aleksandr Nikolayevich said, "an aircraft landed on a grassy plot near our town of Zaraysk. Volod'ka Gorbunov, my bosom buddy, and I spent a sleepless night by that "etagere with a balcony." During the civil war the Kacha Pilots' School was transferred to our town, which had just awakened from its slumber. Just by chance, the school chief was also from Zaraysk. When the poster "Proletariat, to the Aircraft!" appeared at the uyezd Komsomol committee, however, I naturally felt that the appeal was directed to me personally.... My life is linked not simply with the aviation...."

Yes, Aleksandr Nikolayevich's life is inseparable from the destiny of the homeland and the party, which he joined as a communist of the Lenin call-up and of which he has been a member just short of 60 years.

The car, bursting with people and bundles, had quieted down for the night. The conversations had died down--conversations about the cold weather in the Volga region, about the Kronshtadt revolt which had just been put down, about the atrocities committed by the Antonov kulaks in the Tambov region. The cloud of tobacco smoke beneath the roof had dissipated. Everything was conducive to falling asleep, but Ponomarev could not sleep.

His mind took him back to his dear Zaraysk. He could see the courageous faces of uyezd military commissars Sergey Illarionovich Frolov and Fedor Ivanovich Shatov. Under their leadership Ponomarev had taken part in the daring raids of a ChON, a special-purpose unit. Because of them he had become even more firmly convinced that the aviation was the forward edge, that the Soviet Nation could not make it without strong wings. Ponomarev did not know that life would bring him together with those remarkable men once more. He would meet Shatov in Borisoglebsk serving as military commissar of the 2nd Military Pilots' School and would see Frolov as the military commissar of the Military Air Academy.

He recalled Valya, who sat at the next desk in school. He seemed to see her delicate figure on the platform at a local station. Aleksandr could not know that years later he would meet Valya, or more accurately, Valentina Aleksandrovna Sperantova, People's Actress of the USSR, in Moscow and would gratefully watch many performances in which she would have a role.

Nor did he know that fate would soon separate him from Vladimir Gorbunov, who was tossing and sighing on an adjacent baggage shelf. Gorbunov would become lost in the sea of life, only to take Brigade Engineer Ponomarev by surprise later, after the war, with a telephone call: "Sasha! Have you seen the LaGG-3 fighter"? Aleksandr Nikolayevich would recognize his friend by the latter's guttural "r." He would learn that one letter in the new aircraft's designation belonged to his friend, aircraft designer Gorbunov.

Ponomarev could not guess that at the Aviation Tekhnikum of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Air Force in Petrograd, where he and Gorbunov would be sent on TDY, he would hear lectures by well-known aviation theoreticians, that the names of those with whom he would share the joys and disappointments of cadet life would go down in the history of aviation.

After 2 years of training--cold and hungry years--Aleksandr Ponomarev was assigned to the Borisoglebsk Pilots' School. He had the diploma of a Red Technician and Mechanic. He surprised Red Military Pilot V. Remezyuk not only with a uniform which had not been seen before in Borisoglebsk, but also with his appointment as senior mechanic. In today's terminology this would be the chief school engineer.

Remezyuk did not trust the young specialist's knowledge and would not permit him to assume the high position. He set up a test:

"Here is a smashed Moran. Repair it. Perhaps it can be used for taxiing. After that we shall see...."

To everyone's surprise Red Technician and Mechanic Ponomarenko assembled the aircraft. To do so he had to dig in the junk heap and work on a lathe. The doubting specialists of the old school began shaking his hand. The student pilots, including Valeriy Chkalov, unanimously elected him secretary of the school Komsomol organization.

A year later he did become senior mechanic in the school's flight department. He worked from dawn to nighttime. This life pattern was natural and customary for many people at that time, however.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich recalled meetings with P. Baranov, chief of the Air Forces. Ordinarily he visited the school when there was an emergency. He would patiently determine which was to blame--man or the equipment. Ponomarev was frequently the only specialist capable of helping in such a case.

The Air Force chief once said to him:

"It is time for you to become a real engineer. Take this...."

He handed Aleksandr Nikolayevich a program of the entrance exams for the Air Force Academy imeni N.Ye. Zhukovskiy. The young airman passed more than 20 of the exams--from higher mathematics and the social and economic disciplines to military engineering--and became a student at the academy.

"That was an amazing time," Engineer-Colonel General Ponomarev says, recalling his academic years. "We studied with passionate enthusiasm. Almost all of the upperclassmen engaged in design work. Aleksandr Yakovlev, the future general designer, was creating a sports aircraft. Sergey Tumanskiy, my schoolmate from the Petrograd Aviation Tekhnikum and future general designer and academician, and I worked on an aircraft diesel engine--something new for that time."

Aviation was developing rapidly in the nation. It had switched almost totally to Soviet-produced aircraft. A new department--operations--came into being at the academy. After graduation Ponomarev remained as a service student. He then became chief of the technical operations department. The new instructor was well known in the air brigade and at scientific testing institutes of the Air Forces. He worked at the airfields, taking to the sky in flying laboratories.

"I was especially worried," Aleksandr Nikolayevich says with a smile, "when I had to conduct classes in the operations department. I did not have a very high military rank, while my students wore diamonds on their collars. Sergey Khudyakov, Pavel Zhigarev, Konstantin Vershinin and Sergey Rudenko, future army commanders and marshals of aviation, were students there at the time. In addition, Yakov Ivanovich Alksnis, chief of the RKKA [Workers' and Peasants' Red Army] Air Forces, frequently attended the lectures."

Ponomarev has a good memory of Alksnis. Speaking at one of the party meetings, Yakov Ivanovich made the following statement:

"The People's Commissariat of Defense demands that every commander know at least one foreign language. I have begun studying French, and I challenge you to compete with me."

Ponomarev accepted the challenge and soon began speaking fairly good French. When the French government invited Soviet pilots and engineers to study at the Higher National Air School, Ponomarev was in the group. He had been recommended by Alksnis.

While he was abroad Aleksandr Nikolayevich never forgot for a minute what nation he represented. Tests were held each week at the school. Knowledge and "diligence" were graded on a 20-point scale. When the training came to an end and all of the points were totaled, red commander and Bolshevik A. Ponomarev was in first place. This was published in an official list in the press. As one of the best graduates Aleksandr Nikolayevich was invited to attend the Sorbonne as a doctoral candidate. Moscow arranged for him to stay there. Ponomarev spent not just a single month in Paris libraries and university laboratories after that.

Not long before the Great Patriotic War Ponomarev returned to the homeland.

"When I was appointed chief of the academy's engineering school," Aleksandr Nikolayevich recalls, "the skies over the nation were still peaceful. The thoughts of the scientists and designers were already fighting, however. The idea of creating an armored ground attack aircraft was being realized. The aerial re-fueling system was being developed. Thinking was ahead of the times. Kharkov graduate student Arkhip Mikhaylovich Lyul'ka's design for the Turbofan Engine was requested and sent to the academy. Once again, this was advanced thinking. New aircraft designed by Yakovlev, Lavochkin, Tupolev, Il'yushin and Mikoyan.... were placed into series production. These were first-class aircraft for their time.

The aviation needed personnel. The Air Force Military Academy for Pilots and Navigators was opened in Moscow. It was decided to make another academy out of the Institute for Civil Air Engineers in Leningrad. Engineer-Brigadier Ponomarev was sent there as deputy academy chief for scientific and training affairs just before the Great Patriotic War began.

The military air academy was evacuated to Yoshkar-Ola from blockaded Leningrad over northern roads. The State Optics Institute was also removed from Leningrad to Ioshkar-Ola, the capital of the Mari ASSR. This closeness was of considerable importance to the development of the new military training institution. It also meant a great deal to Ponomarev himself, who had been appointed chief of the academy. Academician S. Vavilov, institute director, and academicians V. Linnik, A. Lebedev and T. Kravets willingly agreed to lecture at the academy. The instructors and students in turn helped the scientists with the testing of new luminiferous instruments and aerial photography equipment.

In the victorious spring of '45 the Leningrad Military Air Academy was returned to the city on the Neva. Major General Aleksandr Nikolayevich Ponomarev, aviation service engineer, experienced an exciting event at the site linked with his life as a young cadet--the awarding of the Order of the Red Banner to the academy.

A telegram from the commander in chief returned Aleksandr Nikolayevich to Moscow. Colonel General of Aviation K. Vershinin received him in the building housing the Main Directorate of the Air Forces, new and smelling of fresh paint. He was brief and businesslike:

"It has been decided to restore the Air Force Scientific and Technical Committee. The aviation needs to be developed on a strictly scientific basis. I am hoping you will help."

Detecting a questioning look in Ponomarev's eyes, Vershinin explained:

"As the chairman of this committee. Make yourself at home in your office. Select your staff and plan the work."

The Scientific and Technical Committee (NTK) included prominent military scientists and test engineers--specialists in aerodynamics, armaments, engines and radioelectronics. The committee established vital links with scientific and technical information centers and patent offices, and working ties with the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Ponomarev invited S. Vavilov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, with whom he had become closely acquainted in Yoshkar-Ola, and Academician A. Berg to one of the first landmark meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee. All members of the Air Force Military Council took part in a discussion on prospects for the aviation's development.

The period was a turning point. Aircraft of the frontline generation were still being perfected, and superpowered piston engines were being developed. The decision to have a certain portion of the jet aircraft received soon after the Great Patriotic War in the combat aviation seemed unjustified to many. The pioneers in the new aviation proved to be very capricious both in our nation and abroad. A great deal depended upon the Scientific and Technical Committee's position, upon its ability to rapidly process a flood of information.

Why was the engine failing when the cannons were fired in the air? What were the special aerodynamic properties of the arrow-shaped, triangular wing? How could the aircraft's vibrations at high speeds and the complications during landings be eliminated? Could the aircraft be abandoned if control were lost? How could the exceptionally difficult tasks involved in overcoming the sound barrier be accomplished? Never before had the engineers felt so acutely dependent upon science. The Scientific and Technical Committee helped with the development of technical specifications for new aircraft (including the first postwar passenger aircraft--the Il-12 and Il-14) and the testing of scale-models, coordinated the efforts of designers, metallurgists, chemists and rubber industry workers, and called upon the scientists for studying phenomena which were not understood. S. Vavilov, P. Kapitsa, N. Semenov, V. Struminskiy, A. Makarevskiy, M. Keldysh, S. Korolev and A. Berg helped find the key to the solution of many problems.

During those busy years Aleksandr Nikolayevich became even closer acquainted with the developers of aerospace equipment, test pilots and the first cosmonauts. He later wrote about the selfless toilers of the sky in books, in which every line is imbued with pride in Soviet man and with profound faith in his talent.

Assembling aircraft arriving from abroad with his own hands, red technician and mechanic Ponomarev sensed with special acuteness that there was an enormously long path to travel. It was rapidly covered. At the beginning of the 1930s, Aleksandr Nikolayevich studied the latest American diesel aircraft engine and experienced a sort of disappointment: The engine was a good one, of course, and well constructed, but it embodied nothing new for our aviation science and our strengthened industry. At the beginning of the '50s, when Korean pilots retrieved a Saber which had been shot down at sea, and gave it to us, Ponomarev compared it with the MIG-15 and became convinced that the highly praised American fighter was inferior to ours in every respect. Aleksandr Nikolayevich recalls with excitement a press conference held at the World Aviation Exhibit in Paris. It took place in the vast fuselage of one of our Anteys. "It is something like a steamship with wings," one French newspaper wrote in amazement.

"Soviet aviation and cosmonautics will amaze the world again more than once," Engineer-colonel General A. Ponomarev says. "I am happy that I have seen their creation and development with my own eyes, that I am still giving of my knowledge and strength to them."

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

OUTSTANDING FIGHTER PILOT PROFILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Andryushkov: "At the Line of Interception"]

[Text] The target was fading on the command post's plan position indicators as a dim, dull mark. The tactical control officer automatically--experience showed--placed the plotter on the reference point and stopped movement of the pencil: the "enemy" disappeared in the ground clutter from the tops of the mountain ridges. The GCI controller quickly tuned out the interference from the equipment, but, alas, the "enemy" had vanished into thin air. "He's good!"--assessed the officer and reported the situation to the regimental commander. He made the decision: --33, take off!

Major V. Kulyapin, fighter pilot and squadron deputy commander for political affairs, took off for the intercept.

The airman suddenly sighted the target about a hundred meters off to his right. The bomber, as Kulyapin identified it by the characteristic features, was moving extremely slowly. The fighter had to throttle back sharply in order to match speeds and not dart ahead exposed to an attack. There remained several minutes of flight time to the line of interception.

The "enemy"--actually a fierce, experienced rival--understood full well the complexity of the supersonic interceptor's situation. Making the most of his slow speed, he began to maneuver, steadily continuing on toward the intended target.

Kulyapin, having guessed his intention, for the first time felt that the excess speed was hampering him. He thought, he might not be able to stay at missile striking distance from the target and the "enemy" will try to go beyond the point plotted on the map.

...Major Valentin Kulyapin, bearer of the Order of the Red Banner, military pilot of the 1st class, had had many intercepts and air battles. The result of each one, starting with the very first post-school ones was the same--victory. And each of the pilot's takeoffs required a great strenuous effort.

In a real, modern air battle, in Kulyapin's opinion, such situation could quite possibly arise when one has used up all of his ammunition and the only weapon left might be the aircraft itself. Analyzing examples from the history of the past war, he concluded that not only courage but also the highest piloting skills and a complete mutual understanding between the pilot and the aircraft helped, for example, Hero of the Soviet Union Boris Kovzan to execute an aerial ram attack four times.

But the weapon of the brave--a jet ram attack--is possible today only if, Kulyapin believes, each action in the air is understood thoroughly on the ground, since in flight the fighter is constrained in the choice of a maneuver by the air situation.

...The line of interception indicated on the map grew closer and closer. Yes, in such a situation in a real battle it is more difficult to maneuver into position for a missile attack than it is to ram. Now only mustered determination and polished skill would help the airman win. In the seconds that remained--the line of interception was already quite near--he makes a bold decision.

--I am attacking! --Kulyapin reports decisively to the command post.

Yet another victory for the master of air intercepts!

12567

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

MOSCOW PAPER DESCRIBES BOMBING RUN EXERCISE

PM161656 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Feb 84 First Edition p 6

[Special correspondent Anatoliy Khorobrykh article under the rubric "Reportage From on Board a Heavy Bomber": "Lightning Behind Clouds"]

[Text] "N" Air Garrison--It was 3 minutes to sunrise. We were to take off in tandem. No, not like fighters--side by side--but one after the other, at an interval of several minutes. For such "mastodons" as our ships of the air the widest runway seems like a path.

The leader of the pair--we would cover only part of the route in formation--was Colonel V.V. Pavlyukov, military sniper pilot. His top flying qualification attests to the level of his training. However, this says far from everything. His refueling exploits in the air are legendary.

"For Vladimir Vasilyevich," Major General of Aviation A.N. Osipenko said, "'15' metric tons in the air is like a bicycle on the ground: Half a meter to the left, half a meter to the right--he can keep the refueling probe next to the cone for as long as the job requires. His apprentices already have their own pupils and teach them intricate work."

Aleksandr Nikolayevich knows what he is saying. He, too, has the top flying qualification and has several dozen refuelings in flight to his credit. Both are instructor pilots. But on this flight the general is in the role of the one being tested. He is piloting the succeeding aircraft. For, whatever heights of skill a military pilot has scaled and whatever post he holds, the level of his training has to be regularly monitored. Constant combat readiness and strict observance of safety measures demand this.

In flight the formidable combat machines resemble...snow-white swans. Particularly in the frosty haze, when they descend toward the earth before landing. That is by the by. We are still far from the landing. We still have to take off and travel the route which, even on a huge globe almost as big as a man, looks very impressive. And not just travel it but release bombs onto two ranges from different altitudes, carry out aerial reconnaissance.... They are not accustomed to "smoothing" the air here. Maximum use is made of every minute of flight to improve combat skill.

V.V. Pavlyukov's crew commences takeoff. There is probably no other word for it than elegant. Smooth and unhurried--the aircraft's huge dimensions conceal the growing speed--it resembles in some elusive way the takeoff of a towed glider. This impression is also strengthened by the fact that the great distance between the aircraft and the hermetization of our cockpit almost deadened the roar of the powerful jet engines.

"Well done," I heard over the aircraft intercom system the voice of Colonel V.P. Rudenko, representative of the Air Force Main Staff, who was flying with our crew as the examiner.

Vyacheslav Pavlovich has known V.V. Pavlyukov a long time and has repeatedly fulfilled complex missions with him. V.P. Rudenko served in this garrison before his appointment to Moscow.

The time had come to start up our aircraft, too.

"Crew, I'm taking off," Gen A.N. Osipenko warned as soon as he received permission to take off. And the command was issued by Colonel V.K. Alksnis, flying control officer and military pilot first class.

I wrote this name and suddenly fell to thinking. Alksnis, Osipenko, Rudenko... Three of the four surnames mentioned in this reportage are well known in our glorious Air Force. While heading the Red Air Fleet, Army Commander 2d Rank Ya. I. Alksnis carried out its fundamental restructuring. Major P.D. Osipenko, military pilot, was one of the first women heroes of the Soviet Union. During the war years Hero of the Soviet Union Prof Marshal of Aviation S.I. Rudenko headed an air army, and in peacetime he did a great deal for the transfer of aviation to jet technology, for the training of flight cadres....

"Relatives?" I asked the general.

"To a certain extent, yes," Aleksandr Nikolayevich replied, as though shy about something. "We are nephews. Or, to be accurate, heirs. We have adopted the traditions which our predecessors laid down in the prewar years and in the wartime skies. And those traditions are being strengthened..."

However, let us return to our flight. We entered the clouds almost immediately after takeoff. The sky is like a layer cake: cloud, clear air, cloud again.... And so on for several thousand meters. Keep a sharp lookout here. The slightest violation of the flight regime could result in an undesirable and premature approach between the aircraft.

There is hardly any need to describe all the technical details of the succeeding crew's taking up of formation and maintaining its position in the formation. I will emphasize just one detail. For more than half an hour I observed the movement of the control rods. And throughout that time their range of movement did not exceed 4-5 (!) mm. Intricate work! No, earthly cares--and, believe me, he has many of them--did not distract Gen A.N. Osipenko from the aerial elements. Only with such millimeter-accurate movements is it possible to keep a multiton aircraft next to another one whose velocity is calculated in hundreds of kilometers per hour.

Turns onto new courses were also carried out irreproachably in formation. And this is far harder than following a lead aircraft which keeps both flight speed and altitude constant. I once piloted in formation an aircraft which bears no comparison with ours. I confess that my shirt was always damp, but Aleksandr Nikolayevich and Vyacheslav Pavlovich seemed not to feel any tension.

"Prepare to release!"--V.V. Pavlyukov gave the order.

The control rods did not move.

"Release!"

As though released from captivity, our aircraft smoothly banked to the right and took a new course. The first part of the mission had been fulfilled. I glanced at the instruments. We were a stone's throw from the stratosphere. From this altitude the crew was to make the first bombing strike. An endless plain of clouds bathed by the weak winter sun spread out below.

Here, above the clouds, Lieutenant Colonel E.N. Minasov, aircraft navigator and graduate of the Yu. A. Gagarin Air Force Academy, was working by the sweat of his brow, as the saying goes. "Our Armenian from Tashkent," as he is jokingly introduced to the subunit's new recruits. E.N. Minasov is assisted by Senior Lieutenant V. Yu. Nalimskiy from Bashkiria....

Once again I wish to make a small digression. Wherever the crew members were drafted from, their service records contain one and the same inscription: "Volunteer." They joined the air force at the command of their heart and are fulfilling their constitutional duty with honor. And there is no need to say how important this is nowadays. The situation in the world is inflamed, and only our servicemen's high combat readiness can stop the aggressor.

"We are approaching the combat [region]," the navigator reported.

He now began "playing first violin." The pilots had to ensure stable flight speed and altitude, while he was responsible for setting the course and aiming and dropping the bomb.

There was watchful silence on board the aircraft. Just fragmentary commands to adjust the course, and the navigator's information about the location of the target. And suddenly there came a report from the rear cabin, where Major V.P. Zabegalin, specialist first class, was situated.

"Pair of fighters approaching," he reported. "Ready to repulse the attack."

My neighbors in the cockpit--Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel V.P. Redko and Ensign V.D. Katkov--at once set about new work. In a matter of seconds our aircraft was turned into a combat machine capable of inflicting a crushing strike and repulsing an attack from the sky.

"Bomb away," E.N. Minasov reported meanwhile.

This sounded unexpected. The whole crew seemed occupied with the fighters, but then it all went as prescribed. And, running ahead, let us note that the bomb reached the set target.

"But what about the fighters' attack?"--the reader will ask.

It proved fruitless. But this came to light a little later, when our aircraft descended vigorously to begin the aerial reconnaissance. Since the cloud cover had ended, it was possible to fulfill this mission both visually and by the photographic method.

The altitude enabled us to remove our oxygen masks. Still, the air in the cockpit was better than the mixture coming from cylinders. I looked at my watch and could not believe my eyes. How quickly time flies. How many kilometers had we covered?

The aerial reconnaissance was fulfilled. Turn to the next range. General A.N. Osipenko "introduced a new situation," that is, he changed part of the mission which he had approved on the ground. "A strike against a missile launch position from middle altitudes on the first approach. Aiming off. Point-10 cloud cover ahead..."

Engr-Lt Col V.P. Redko lost no time. Listening to the commander's instructions over the aircraft intercom system, he issued flight rations to the crew members. The pilots and navigators took it in turns to eat, like the other crew members, incidentally. The flight continued.

It is necessary to keep an eye on the work of the autopilot, know the aircraft's position at every moment, be ready to repulse new attacks by fighters, and not miss the moment of crossing the boundary of the "enemy air defense zone..."

General A.N. Osipenko's suppositions regarding the cloud cover soon came true. Point-10. It resembled ridges of snow on a vast lake. The flight speed also became more noticeable.

"Would you like to watch the bomb drop?" Engr-Lt Col V.P. Redko suggested.

Doubled up, I tensely waited for the navigator's report: "Bomb away!" At once a gray little bomb, tiny in comparison with the side of the bomb bay door, detached itself from beneath the fuselage. Rocking very slightly, for some time it flew along horizontally, parallel with the aircraft. But the heading had its way. It entered the clouds almost vertically....

Our flight ended 3 minutes before sunset. After landing Gen A.N. Osipenko expressed gratitude not only to those who had participated in the flight but also to those who had prepared the aircraft. These are their names: Captain of Technical Service A.I. Ignatyev, Senior Lieutenants of Technical Service I.D. Neyaskin, G.I. Shelkovnikov, and A.B. Kunitskiy, Lieutenant of Technical Service A.A. Volchenko, Senior Ensign G.N. Potapov, and Ensigns N.V. Vessonov and S.A. Afinogenov. Their reply--"We serve the Soviet Union"--resounded in the twilight.

NAVAL FORCES

COMBINING RESEARCH, PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Dec 83 p 2

/Article by Capt 1st Rank A. Lavrent'yev, doctor of military sciences, professor, and Capt 1st Rank A. Lebedev, candidate of philosophical sciences, assistant professor: "It Begins With an Essay"/

/Text/ The future officer is nervous and suffering, submitting his first creative work, an essay, for judgment by instructors and comrades. Yes, and the instructor, if he is a pedagogue by calling, does not remain indifferent, familiar with the attempt of his own pupil to say something in his own way.

The best essays of Cadet S. Nekrasov come to mind. Philosophy, mathematics and technology fascinated him. But the future officer's first works in scientific circles were not especially noteworthy. In reality they became interesting only during his final year, after his shipboard experience. Instructors succeeded in inculcating in the graduating student a taste for experimentation, research and an aspiration to give deep meaning to the results of daily work. The young atomic submarine navigator made a series of conclusions which are outstanding in their uniqueness and important for practical work. In particular he discovered a previously unknown sea medium effect. The proposals of the lieutenant captain which allow increased ship navigational accuracy were summarized by the Main Administration of Navigation and Oceanography of the USSR Ministry of Defense. A special bulletin with their description was circulated throughout the navy and military training institutions. Today Sergey Nikolayevich Nekrasov is a candidate of sciences. He is training and educating officer cadre, transferring to them the best traits of his own character.

Fleet experience and service on ships convincingly confirms that accustoming officers to scientific-research work beginning in their cadet years allows them to develop a feeling for the new, qualities of determination and responsibility for the affairs entrusted to them. Officers who use knowledge daringly always support their subordinates' reasonable initiative and awaken in them the desire to know the true combat capabilities of equipment and weapons and to use them to their maximum.

On one of the long trips while completing a military training mission things suddenly became complicated. The ship's navigator, Capt 3rd Rank M. Golubev, a pupil in our school, instantly evaluated the situation and applied the only

real solution. The mission was accomplished. Later specialists came to the conclusion that only knowledge was not enough to use that solution in the short time available. A special technical intuition was also required. They get this in scientific circles and in the process of research work. Mikhail Mikhaylovich Golubev during his cadet days was a most active member of the military-scientific society.

It has been noted that many graduating students who have displayed outstanding abilities in solving tactical and technical missions initially showed themselves to be creative people in essays on social disciplines. This can be explained easily. A creative attitude toward the study of social sciences allows the future officer to acquire knowledge in depth. It is appropriate to bring in the words of M. I. Kalinin who stressed that preparing a report allows one to study the subject five times deeper than listening to a lecture on the same subject. On the other hand, work on an essay in social sciences arms a person with the general methodology of independent research and the ability to analytically approach the facts and phenomena of life, to logically and sequentially state ideas and to clearly formulate the basic theses and conclusions. No matter what field an officer continues his creative search in, he will correctly approach the issue, maturely determine its significance and methodologically competently solve it.

This year at the traditional conference of the military-scientific society of cadets, the most interesting scientific reports were both in the social and special disciplines. For example, the work of Cadet S. Shilov was dedicated to the military-theoretical legacy of K. Marx and F. Engels. Cadets I. Zikiy and Yu. Romashov were attracted to the issue of increasing the effectiveness in the use of radio-technical means of navigation under conditions of natural and artificial obstacles. It would be premature to contend that the author of the first work showed his worth more clearly in political-educational work with people and the authors of the second work in navigational affairs. Another conclusion is important, and that is that the taste for creativity has shown up in our pupils and this means much for an officer's fate.

In the Officer Training School imeni M. V. Frunze as in many others, cadets of the senior class not only prepare essays, they are also drawn into fulfilling departmental scientific-research assignments, participate in experiments and in developing working models and simulators. The ideas that result are often developed in course work and graduate theses.

Our cadets won seven medals and six degrees from the USSR Ministry of Higher and Intermediate Specialized Education and the Komsomol Central Committee in contests on student works in the fields of science and technology. This year the USSR Ministry of Defense awarded the school a certificate for active participation in the Ninth All-Union Competition for student works in social sciences, history of the Komsomol and the international youth movement. We have teachers who love to work individually with a student and entice interesting ideas and skillfully encourage independence. Professor R. Skubko, Candidates of Naval Sciences, Docents Capt 1st Rank E. Ryzhkov, G. Uming, V. Solov'yev and many others are such teachers. In this vein it is impossible not to remember the All-Army Conference on Issues Concerning the Work of VUZ /Institutions of higher learning/.

Here it was stressed that military schools do not graduate subunits, but individuals, each taken separately. If a professor has the occasion to "work with" one of his cadets, bringing his essay to the required level, this is by no means additional work, but the most basic part of his work.

Teachers follow the shipboard service of their former society members. Often the young officers are attracted to research conducted in the fleet and in departments of institutions. Usually they gather and summarize material gained in the process of sailing ships under various conditions and through the use of various navigational systems and structures. Those who especially successfully combine service and scientific work replace the junior scientific assistants in the institutions. In their time we discussed the essays of Cadets E. Gubar' and P. Khimich. Not long ago Captain 3rd Rank Gubar' sent a candidate dissertation to the institution's specialized council. Captain 3rd Rank Khimich is junior scientific assistant. In 1982 Cadet S. Kosenko received his certification in a contest of student works on social sciences. Now Lieutenant Kosenko is highly successfully researching questions related to the use of navigational equipment.

The question of the importance of giving future officers access to scientific-research work has already been raised in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Essays are an integral part of the training-educational process. Unfortunately, it is necessary to state that the essay often becomes a cadet report on work accomplished and then gathers dust in the department's file cabinet. It is the teachers' and commanders' responsibility to insure that students more often present their essays at theoretical conferences in the institution, present it to subunit personnel of the garrison and use the material from the essays during shipboard probation.

Experience is convincing. The inclinations of future officers and researchers are distinctly shown during their institutional years. It is impossible not to notice them. But not all those who heavily announce themselves during their cadet days reveal their talent in the end. A young officer's aspirations for scientific work are not met with understanding and support on every ship or in all units. Several commanders and political workers see in this something especially personal, extending beyond the scope of the unit's or ship's interest.

Fleet officers with a bent toward scientific work could, in our opinion, more actively participate in detached research done in institutions and in the development of training grants and methods equally beneficial to both the cadets and the personnel of the ship. There is still little experience in this area. The professor-instructor body of VUZes through careful coordination of the research work could provide much help to fleet officers.

The formation of an officer's personality is a multifaceted and complex process. It includes the cadet's education in both the creative dialectic-materialistic approach to solving missions of a military and political training and also the sharpened feeling for the new and a persistence in attaining the goal. The first steps toward creativity, the important steps, the future officer makes in his cadet military-scientific society. Creativity for him begins with the essay.

12511

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NAVAL FORCES

SHORE-BASED SIMULATORS INCREASE APTITUDE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Dec 83 p 1

/Article by Capt 2nd Rank V. Mikhaylov entitled "Against an Intricate Tactical Background"/

/Text/ The lull in the submarine control center arose unexpectedly. The regular sounding of the on-duty sonar operator suddenly countered all previous information and forced them to doubt its reliability. Was it a mistake? The submariners' attention focused on one person, the captain. He had to decide.

"Navigator, calculate the course to the primary target," said the captain after a slight reflection. "Use the last sonar reading as the basis."

There was a momentary flurry of activity in the control center. The captain's words did not clarify the situation, but they functioned calmly. The first step to uncovering the surface "enemy's" plan had been taken.

Minutes stretched like hours until the sonar operator reported that the bearing to the primary target was as before, whereas the bearings to the escort ships were quickly increasing. The escort ships had discovered a danger in another area of the ocean and were rushing in pursuit. But what were they hunting for? Not that this was important now that the submariners had the rare opportunity of closing in unnoticed and attacking the target.

"Torpedo attack!"

Following this the command, "Trainees assemble for the critique," rang out. The exercise instructor noted the increased tactical skill of the ship's combat crew. Having found themselves in a nonstandard situation, the submariners had displayed self-control and persistence in attaining their goal. These qualities which will prove useful more than once at sea are acquired during base training. Many useful innovations which serve to increase the quality of exercises and training and to develop competition were developed and introduced into submarine units.

In the first place they were concerned here that available simulators are used in a combined mode. Whereas earlier, let us say, torpedo men, rocketeers, sonar operators and other specialists trained separately, now, thanks to the improved

training base, training instructors have the capability of organizing joint training, having created a more complicated training scenario for this.

Since the first exercises of the new training year a sharp rivalry has developed among ship combat crews. The capability to compare the level of crew training and to expose the most characteristic errors in specialists' work during the course of training has already been shown. The recent creation of television mounts also helped the exercise instructors. They allow them to conduct critiques more objectively and didactically and to teach ship captains the art of analyzing the quickly-changing situation. They can also cultivate in the captains the hard skills of weapons employment.

They are receiving no less a return in units from the system of machine control of appraisal block accomplishments which Engineer Capt 2nd Rank V. Azhnakin created. It allows them to control practically all aspects of submariner training and reduces the time for taking exams. At first, when talk first turned to introducing long-range methods of training, some people in units had doubts. They say why abandon the usual system of training? The complex use of simulators unavoidably will entail an important change in the method of training ship specialists. But will it have the required effect?

It should be said that there was a basis for such doubts. But this did not stop the pioneers from introducing long-range training methods. They energetically began improving the existing method and introducing corrections to the plan for training exercise instructors. A series of instructional-methodological exercises was conducted for this purpose. The more methodologically-prepared training classes instructors joined the recently created consultative council.

Rationalizers made a great contribution to raising the effectiveness of the training process and improving the training base. Working on the earlier-constituted plan they prepared through their own efforts a series of new training appliances which helped the instructors accelerate acquisition of necessary skills. Lt Capt A. Petrov and Warrant Officers N. Tyukin, P. Grebenkin and many others made useful innovations in the process of preparing for the new training year. Each of them is an experienced and competent specialist who knows the specifics of service on a submarine perfectly. However, they would not have been able to do the work performed if the unit commander and the party organization had not helped them. They held the rationalizers' work under strict control and gave them all kinds of support.

The training process in submarine units on the whole meets the high contemporary requirements. Now the most important requirement is not to reduce the efforts, to use simulators comprehensively and to bring training conditions at the base close to those which might arise at sea.

12511
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SPECIAL TROOPS

FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS IN COLD WEATHER DESCRIBED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 1, Jan 84 (signed to press 26 Dec 83) p 20

[Article by Sr WO (Praporshchik) P. Rudenko, first sergeant of surface-to-air missile battalion, Red Banner Siberian Military District: "Logistical Support: Even Freezing Temperatures Are No Hindrance"]

[Text] For five years I have been going out on field problems with my battalion, but each time I am as worried as if it will be the first time to operate in the cold and blizzard. My anxieties are understood by subunit first sergeants, who are responsible for seeing that the soldier is warmly dressed, has warm footwear and is accommodated in heated tents in a timely manner in a winter exercise or, in short, for seeing that the soldier is provided with everything necessary. In sharing my experience I will restrict myself only to the subject of provisions. The fact is that it is not so simple to feed a battalion in freezing weather far from the military post. In addition to professional expertise, what is needed here as well is, I would say, a high sense of responsibility and love for one's job. I remember at the beginning of winter, when it was already very cold and a deep snow had fallen, that the batteries were proceeding continuously in combat formations, screening motorized riflemen and tankmen against the air "enemy." There was not a single free minute to feed the crews.

"Permit me to issue dry biscuits and sugar," I asked the commander. "The people's strength has to be kept up..."

On receiving an "okay," I contrived to issue a modest soldier's ration to the missilemen. They had a bite on the move and I saw them beginning to smile and wave to me affably as if to say: Good lad, first sergeant, he gladdened us with biscuits... I had taken a whole bag of them along just in case, and it came in handy. I myself performed first-term duty as a driver-mechanic and know how difficult the kilometers of marches are.

Here in Siberia a great deal of experience already has been gained. I have become accustomed to the specific features of missilemen's duty: here now, there tomorrow... One must be ready for the march at any hour. We go out for a day, a week or a month.

I believe I was lucky in that I always feel the support of battalion political officer Capt I. Strukov and party organization secretary Capt A. Yakovlev in my work. I don't even have to mention our commander; he views feeding people in exercises as one of the most important tasks. But help is good when you yourself work sincerely without awaiting promptings.

How do I prepare for a field exercise? Only by relying on the military collective's assistance. Like other responsible appointed persons, I am given the floor at conferences in the preparatory period, and at party and Komsomol meetings I myself request the floor...

Any departure is preceded by selection of an assortment of products. The primary calculation is the following: in an exercise I consider it mandatory to feed the missilemen the first meat dish for dinner. Soup, borshch and rassolnik must be prepared with fresh meat, and the second dish can be prepared with canned meat as well. Preserves also can be taken along for supper, but this time it is canned fish. We take groats into the field, as they do not require lengthy cooking; this includes buckwheat and pearl-barley. The dry Siberian winter forces us to use more concentrates and canned foods. By the way, I check without fail to assure that can openers have not been forgotten. It is seemingly a minor point, but it is necessary.

If the situation allows, I drop in on the food service specialists without fail. It is never superfluous to seek advice on the day's menu and learn about new arrivals at the depot.

In preparing for an exercise, I always remember that if you hurry in trying to be on time, later it is difficult to make up for lost time. For example, take the preparation of potatoes. In the cold of winter it is especially pleasing to taste a hot potato in an exercise! It has to be prepared in advance, however. We wash and clean the tubers in permanent quarters, where there is sufficient water and heat. Later we freeze this semifinished product. When preparing a meal we do not thaw the potatoes but place them immediately into the pot. For this reason they do not lose their taste qualities or nutritive properties. We could, of course, also get by with dehydrated potatoes, but one so much wants to gladden the missilemen after difficult combat work with a good borshch or soup.

It is for the same purpose that I try to take along fresh beets, carrots and onions, and not dehydrated products, into the field. How can these vegetables be kept from freezing? I use several methods. For example, I place the vegetables in heated boxes or place them in special vehicles where there are provisions for heating. I agree in advance with the subunit commanders and neatly stow the products so they are not a hindrance on a march or in performing assigned missions.

We also made heated boxes for bread storage with consideration of the experience and recommendations of district logistics specialists. I consider it my duty to feed the personnel only fresh bread. Placed in rows in boxes and covered with a clean white cloth, it doesn't get stale for several days. As

they say, a warm chunk of bread needs no advertisement and reminds a soldier best of all that people are concerned for him. In one exercise I had occasion to visit a neighboring motorized rifle battalion during dinner. I happened to notice that soldiers were cutting frozen bread with an axe outside the tent. I made the first sergeant feel ashamed, for the person has every opportunity to feed the subunit properly, but he isn't taking care of his job.

The transportation and storage of water in a winter exercise can give a great deal of trouble if no concern is shown in advance. It is very difficult to keep water in the freezing temperatures under our Siberian conditions.

We have a container holding 2,000 liters on a semitrailer. It is always clean, but to keep the water from freezing in it we wrap it up without fail and warm the vent. We don't use a faucet. While you warm it up you are late with dinner. We get the water through the vent. A crust of ice forms in it, but this is not difficult to break up. We renew the water reserve at the first opportunity, but we regulate its consumption intelligently.

It is very important to have hot tea ready in very cold weather and one burner is constantly heating for this purpose. The crew members of launchers whose combat work entails a lengthy time in the open air drink the tea with satisfaction. Other specialists also take the tea in canteens. In addition, under field conditions we try to prepare more compote and kissel.

I have not yet mentioned that we also give out additional nourishment to the crews: bread, sugar, pastry and lard... All this is issued from the unit reserves, including from what is received from the kitchen farm.

My special concern in the field is the quality of food preparation, for one can have a reserve of water and fuel and a full selection of products, but feed the people poorly... Although my assistants are graduates of the cooks school, they need advice. Of course I teach them prior to the trip, but even in the field I don't forget to suggest and monitor. For example, according to the demands of guidance documents and recommendations on messing in winter exercises, daily bill of fare is as follows: 25-30 percent for breakfast, 40-45 for dinner and 20-25 for supper. If nighttime operational training work is ahead, the percentage ratio changes somewhat: we try to make supper a bigger meal.

I constantly give a reminder that we cannot be late for a minute no matter what products are used to make breakfast, dinner and supper. This knocks the subunit from a businesslike rhythm and affects the soldiers' mood. My admission possibly will sound too high-faluting, but I am proud of the fact that in five years of service in my position not once did I delay the battalion with messing on field exercises.

Well, the cooks have done their job and now the people have to be fed. Everyone in our subunit messes in warm mess tents. I take along tables with a hygienic cover. There is a set of furniture which our skilled craftsmen made for the enlisted men's field mess. Neatly planed blocks covered with a film

serve as tabletops. It is true that there are no chairs or stools, and so the missilemen eat standing, but at tables and in the warmth. It is difficult to come up with something better due to our high mobility. The food also has to be prepared on the move and the position has to be occupied, as by the missilemen, in a matter of minutes, where necessity forces it.

But despite all these difficulties and troubles, I will say frankly that I like the duty. This does not, of course, mean that I already consider myself a master. I always find time to look in on the neighbors to learn from them and I keep up with the literature. For example, I read articles by Siberian scientists about problems of nourishment and adaptation under extreme conditions. I note down what is of interest and use the knowledge I gain in my work. For example, I now keep a more attentive watch on how proteins and microcomponents are represented in the daily fare and I teach the cooks how to preserve more vitamins in the food.

Our battalion has not had a single case where someone received frostbite, got a cold or had a stomachache in an exercise. I believe this indicates a great deal, and above all it indicates well arranged living and full-fledged nourishment for the soldiers. The success of the batteries obviously also is a credit to us. For several years now we have been receiving only outstanding grades at the range and we hold first place in competition. Freezing cold and blizzards are no hindrance if the missileman feels the warmth of constant concern.

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AFGHANISTAN

UKRAINIAN JOURNALIST REPORTS ON COMMUNIST PARTY, WAR EFFORT IN AFGHANISTAN

Kiev RADYANS'KA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 14, 15 Dec 83

[Two-part article, published under the heading "Travel Notes," by O. Vlasenko, Kabul-Kiev: "Afghan Encounters"]

[14 Dec 83 p 3]

[Text] 1. Morning Over Kabul

The dawn sky over Kabul was exceptionally beautiful. The southern inky blackness suddenly retreated under the onslaught of the darkly pinkish morning light flooding the snowy peaks of the Hindu Kush, looming over the Afghan capital on three sides. A brief instant later, and the sky was aflame with a fantastically beautiful purple hue.

As one strolls about this noisy and many-countenanced eastern city, it seems that this morning sky has scattered part of its color over it. The buildings housing government offices and establishments, party committees, youth, women's and other public organizations, and the public squares are hung with banners. Red banners -- of the Popular Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), and black-green-red banners -- national flags. As the Afghans explain, black represents their difficult past, green represents a tribute to Islamic traditions, and red, as everywhere, is a symbol of the struggle for a bright future and of respect for the memory of those who have died defending the revolution.

A country with a history going back to antiquity, today Afghanistan is experiencing a genuine morning of a new era. The beginning of this era was signaled by the victory of the 1978 April Revolution, which was of an anti-feudal, anti-imperialist, national-democratic character.

I recall get-togethers at the Ministry of Mines and Industries and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Afghan comrades discussed in detail specific plans for development of this country's economy, intensive efforts to implement them, and spoke of the labor heroism of workers and peasants. Perhaps some of us would consider these concerns to be fairly minor in scale: what was involved was the construction of a small textile mill, renovation of a mine, construction of local irrigation systems, etc. We have become accustomed to gigantic industrial complexes, to

dealing not only with performance figures of cosmic magnitude but outer-space projects as well. But let us recall that joy experienced by our toiler when an Il'ich light bulb lit up for the first time, when the first "iron horse" appeared in a farmer's field, and when work-calloused hands, accustomed to the hammer or plow, traced out letters of the alphabet for the first time. This is the picture and these are the feelings one observes today in Afghanistan.

The fact is, a great many things here are designated as "first." The first rural cooperatives and machine-tractor stations, the first housing for toilers and the first Pioneer camps for schoolchildren, the first congresses of teachers, doctors, journalists, and the first party conference....

This long and difficult journey leads to goals articulated by the April Revolution -- to build a new society in Afghanistan grounded on the principles of social justice, for centuries-old backwardness cannot be overcome at one fell swoop. On the eve of the revolution this country was one of the world's poorest and least developed nations.

As the Afghan saying goes, a path can be found even to the summit of a high mountain. This path is being pointed out by the Popular Democratic Party of Afghanistan, under the guidance of which the revolution was carried out. The party's leadership role in society as the vanguard detachment of the worker class and all the toilers is steadily growing. The PDPA is growing stronger organizationally and is increasingly more purposefully accomplishing the tasks of socioeconomic development and crushing counterrevolution. Recently party membership topped 100,000. There are strong party organizations at industrial enterprises, in the armed forces, in the tsarandoy (police), at all levels of government, and at many educational institutions.

Few members of the PDPA are beyond middle age, but even among the younger members there are many with gray hair, their stern faces wrinkled and weathered. Many of them were in the underground and experienced prison and torture: let us not forget that the revolution is only a few years old.

I look at a photograph taken as a memento of a get-together with Kabul party activists (the Kabul party organization numbers approximately 16,000 PDPA full and probationary members). Young, cheerful, modestly garbed individuals, looking for all the world like members of a senior class posing for a snapshot taken by one of their comrades. But the armored personnel carrier in the background abruptly brings one back to reality. As the first secretary of the city committee told me, a large percentage of these party activists have been awarded government decorations for courage in battles for the revolution, which they have all experienced. (Incidentally, the secretary, an ardent fan of Kiev Dinamo -- thousands of Afghans watch TV programs from the USSR, including athletic events -- asked me to pass on to our soccer team the request that they not disappoint their Afghan admirers, as unfortunately happened this year).

The work being done by party members today as well also involves constant danger. Frequently shots are fired at them in an empty alley or through a window, or their modest living quarters might be blown up with a grenade or mortar shell. And they frequently take weapon in hand and defend the people's

new life. At enterprises, offices, and educational institutions -- everywhere one sees "memorial corners," containing black-framed photographs of those who have given their lives for the revolution. A complex of modern buildings has gone up on the southwestern edge of the capital, containing the Watan [father-land] Children's Home. Five hundred school-age children live and study there -- children whose parents have been killed. Nursery schools and kindergartens have also been built, which accept orphaned children. And a preparatory, so-called worker faculty has been established at Kabul Polytechnic Institute, in which for the most part children of persons killed fighting for the revolution study and live at government expense, preparing for enrollment in the institute.

Mass-membership public organizations, established in the course of the revolution, are actively functioning under PDPA guidance. Particularly active is the Democratic Organization of Afghanistan Youth (DOAY), the membership of which today exceeds 100,000 young men and women. From the very first days of its existence it adopted the ideological platform of the PDPA, and recognizes its revolutionary program. Afghan trade unions have a total membership in excess of 160,000.

...As one strolls along the endless rows of small dukans [shops] (there are more than 30,000 of these in Kabul), kiosks, and workshops, one is struck by the fact that the sales personnel are all males, frequently assisted by young boys. Nor does one see any women in the restaurants or hotels, or even where lamb is being barbecued on a spit or some intricate dish is being prepared in the open air. This is a feature of life in Afghanistan as a Muslim country, where women are permitted to associate only with the members of their own family, where until recently women were considered a "second-class" being, where the birth of a girl child would be taken as a misfortune by the entire family, where women were subjected to cruel discrimination, deprived of elementary human rights, and viewed as an object to buy and sell.

And suddenly -- an impressive demonstration of women in defense of peace and against imperialism. They come together in small groups on the square and in the street adjacent to the building housing the PDPA Central Committee, and merge into a single body.... And now columns are marching to music accompaniment through the streets of Kabul, carrying flags, banners, and signs condemning imperialism, external and domestic counterrevolution. Forty thousand women took part in the demonstration -- that is how many were required to raise consciousness, to change the way of thinking among the public and in the family! They marched boldly, with exposed faces. Some were still wearing the paranja [traditional woman's robe], but the very fact that they had come out to a political demonstration was quite an accomplishment for the overwhelming majority of these women. A feat of personal heroism, a protest against fanaticism, a downtrodden state and deprivation of rights.

The National Patriotic Front, formed in 1981, has played an important role in this country's affairs. This is not only an organization but, to an even greater extent, a common national patriotic ideal. The Front seeks to unite all Afghan patriots in the name of building a new, progressive society on a common platform of defense of the homeland against the intrigues of imperialism and reaction.

To enlist broad strata and groups within the population in building a new life is a task of exceptional importance and involves great difficulties, for the country's ethnic-tribal composition is unusually diverse: Afghanistan is the home of more than 20 peoples, belonging to 5 ethnic groups. In Paktia province, for example, settled and nomadic Pathans represent approximately 100 tribes, each of which is made up of clans, while each clan is made up of several large families. A family contains 30-40 or more persons. The situation is similar in other provinces. And the only possible approach to the tribes and clans is to come to an agreement with their leaders and elders, to explain to them the essence of the April Revolution calmly and with great patience and tact. It is logical that the Jirga [Assembly] of Tribal Representatives was among the founders of the National Patriotic Front. A special ministry for frontier, nationalities and tribal affairs has also been established in Afghanistan, headed by Solayman Laeq, an ardent revolutionary and poet, who is also well known in our country.

The Supreme Ulema and Clergy Council is also a founding member of the Front. This is extremely important, for almost the country's entire population consists of religious believers, and religious fanaticism holds a very strong position. Suffice it to say that Afghanistan is practically the world leader in number of mosques and mullahs per capita: the country contains 24,000 mosques, approximately 15,000 "holy places," and an entire army of ministers of Islam -- in approximate numbers more than 250,000 persons.

The party, government, and public organizations are working aggressively to enlist the loyal clergy to work in cooperation with the popular authorities. Much attention must be devoted to religious matters also because the counter-revolution is endeavoring to conceal its essential nature and antipopular directional thrust behind the green banner of Islam, to play on the traditionally strong religious feelings of the Afghans, and to make the exceptionally influential Muslim clergy into its tool.

This country's entire life and affairs, and the processes which are taking place in Afghanistan persuasively attest to the fact that popular rule is gaining growing support and understanding on the part of the toiler masses and the entire population of the DRA. The April Revolution is surging forward, steadily growing, uniting the toiler masses, leading Afghanistan along the road of social progress.

[15 Dec 83 p 3]

[Text] 2. Undeclared War

I hold in my hands a squat, ribbed, dark-yellow "saucepan." I examine it on all sides and heft it on the palms of my hands.... It is hard to believe that this innocent-looking object contains a terrible force capable of destroying a truck, or even a tank. I carefully put the landmine back and examine, one after the other, "playthings" from a large pile -- a rocket-propelled grenade, a projectile for a recoilless gun, and neatly-packed boxes of gleaming cartridges, interspersed with packets of leaflets containing a picture of a bearded man. The pile also contains assault rifles, pistols, a heavy-caliber machinegun, and several mortars....

"This entire pile was captured just yesterday," I was told by the deputy chief of the political directorate of the DRA Ministry of Internal Affairs. "Another dushman [counterrevolutionary bandit] band was smashed near Kabul by the tsarandoy (people's militia). Incidentally, it was a small band, but sometimes even a small band is equipped with an entire arsenal of weapons and military gear. Note the markings: United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Egypt, Pakistan...."

We then proceeded to another room, a large hall containing a permanent exhibit of captured bandit equipment and testimony to the crimes perpetrated by the dushman.

One is struck by the photographs: demolished bridges and factories, downed power and communication lines, burned-out schools, hospitals, places of worship transformed into a pile of rubble, smoke-blackened dwellings with windows shattered by an explosion.... Even more frightful documentary evidence of bandit vengeance against party and youth activists and the members of their families, especially children, and against peasants. We have viewed similar scenes in photographs of the bloody crimes perpetrated by the Bandera monsters, the Chilean fascists, by the U.S. military in Vietnam, by Pol Pot's people in Kampuchea, by the "death squads" in Guatemala, El Salvador, and the Zionists in Lebanon....

Democratic Afghanistan is working to overcome its centuries-old backwardness and to carry out progressive socioeconomic reforms. This process would be tens of times more rapid if it were not for the undeclared war being waged against the Afghan people by the imperialists, U.S. ruling circles in particular, as well as certain regimes in the region.

The United States has for quite some time been engaged in subversive activities in Afghanistan, which has 2,384 kilometers of common border with the Soviet Union. This country was assigned an important role in Washington's foreign policy strategy right after World War II; since that time they have been attempting to push it from a position of neutrality, to draw it into the system of military-political blocs fashioned by the West, to place U.S. military bases on its soil, and to turn it into a bridgehead of aggression against the USSR.

Having suffered defeats in efforts to place on Afghanistan the yoke of imperialist oppression and to advance across its territory right up to the southern border of the Soviet Union, official Washington and its accomplices, following the victory of the April Revolution, adopted a policy of subversive activities directed against the DRA. These actions took on the form of undisguised armed intervention in the internal affairs of the Afghan nation.

It is precisely through the fault of the imperialists that the revolutionary process in Afghanistan has assumed at the present stage the form of an armed struggle by the people against external and domestic counterrevolution. And it is precisely the counterrevolution which bears the responsibility for the sufferings and blood shed by this people.

One can draw a conclusion on the scale of the undeclared war from the following official figures: as of the beginning of 1983 (and how much in addition since

then!) the bandits had destroyed 1,814 schools, 31 hospitals, 111 medical centers, had torched more than 800 trucks, which represents 14 percent of the country's entire truck fleet, had destroyed 14,000 kilometers of communication lines, 906 rural cooperatives, and had done considerable damage to dozens of industrial and agricultural facilities, roads, bridges, dams, and irrigation systems. In 1983 alone 11 acts of sabotage were carried out on the pipeline which conveys natural gas to the USSR and to the nitrate fertilizer plant in Mazar-i-Sharif. During that same period approximately 30 power line towers, more than 100 transformer substations and approximately 30 diesel-powered generating stations were dynamited....

The leaders of counterrevolutionary bands have established a unique fixed price for each terrorist act: the killing of an Afghan Army enlisted man "costs" 5-7 thousand afghani (for comparison, the average earnings of a white-collar or blue-collar worker run 2-3 thousand afghani per month), a party activist or government official -- 10-15 thousand, an officer -- up to 30,000, while disabling a tank with a landmine "costs" 100,000 afghani.... The dushman are quite free-spending, for a flood of money is coming in from Washington, London, and other NATO capitals. Considerable sums are coming from reactionary Arab regimes, and recently also from Iran's anti-Afghan Ayatollahs. According to the figures of informed U.S. newspapers, in particular the NEW YORK TIMES, Washington and U.S. allies have already spent a billion dollars on waging this "undeclared" war.

But the revolution has the ability to defend itself. The National Afghan Army is steadily growing in strength and numbers. The forces of the people's militia and state security -- the KhAD -- have become reliable defenders of the revolution. The general public is taking active part in defending revolutionary achievements. Fourteen thousand workers, organized into self-defense detachments, are guarding their enterprises. I frequently encountered lads in civilian clothing carrying assault rifles -- these were youth public order brigades, established under the auspices of the Democratic Organization of Afghanistan Youth. At strategic locations in the cities and towns, in addition to regular army personnel and the tsarandoy, security posts have been set up, formed of party activists and volunteers from the detachments of defenders of the revolution. Self-defense detachments have been formed in almost every kishlak [village]. Even women have taken up arms, to defend themselves against raids by counterrevolutionary bands, brigands and marauders.

At the Ministry of Internal Affairs I encountered a small group of men wearing native turbans and wide trousers, with assault rifles slung across their shoulders. We were told that these were members of the frontier militia -- a new force of defenders of the DRA, formed at the initiative of and by the tribes living in the border areas. Many of these subunits have repeatedly been involved in combat and have smashed the dushman.

There is also taking place a certain change in people whose consciousness had previously been fogged by the counterrevolutionaries and "mentors" from across the sea. And although not occurring on a mass scale, instances where fairly large bands have voluntarily surrendered to a man and even expressed the wish to defend the cause of the revolution, however, have been significant.

The large bandit forces have now been wiped out, and the dushman have been compelled to shift to new tactics, where they count on terrorist acts and acts of sabotage with the aim of keeping people in constant fear, paralyzing economic and political life, and weakening the social base of the revolution in the cities, towns, and villages. The bandits and their "advisers" from the United States and Pakistan, experts in the conduct of dirty wars, are also counting on mine warfare.

...On the streets of Kabul my attention was drawn by piles of firewood and scales on the ground next to them. Local comrades explained in response to my surprised query that firewood is very expensive and is sold here not by the cubic meter but by the kilogram. Alongside firewood, gas is the principal household fuel. Both firewood and gas must be hauled in from a distance.

There is no rail transportation in this country. All needed goods -- foodstuffs, fuel, medical supplies, equipment, building materials -- are hauled by truck. The roads, difficult at the best of times (Kabul lies at an elevation of 1,850 meters above sea level), have also been designated as targets of attack by the dushman. Every truck convoy (and sometimes they run as many as several hundred vehicles) must be escorted past mines and bandit ambushes.

The ignorance and downtrodden state of a certain segment of the population are allies to the reactionaries. A literate individual cannot be kept in medieval ignorance and cannot be deceived by mystical incantations. Therefore schools -- shoots of the future -- particularly enrage the dushman. In this area the so-called "free world" generously shares its "know-how." This "experience" has involved "witch-hunting," hunting "reds" and "blacks"; in Afghanistan it is being incorporated in "hunting teachers."

We could also cite other, unfortunately still numerous facts of crimes committed by external and domestic counterrevolution. And they all attest to the fact that the bandits are waging war against the people. War is being waged against the rights of the toilers to productive labor, to knowledge, to social progress, to peaceful skies over Afghanistan. But nobody can defeat the people. They are courageously fighting domestic and external counterrevolution.

The people of the DRA are not alone in the struggle for a bright future. The builders of the new Afghanistan speak with gratitude and respect about the internationalist mission of the limited force of Soviet troops. The country has preserved and continues to preserve its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity thanks to this force. They are equally grateful to the Soviet specialists who are helping the Afghan people build factories and roads, irrigation systems and power generating plants, and helping provide children with medical care. More than 170 facilities for Afghanistan's economy have been built or are being built in conformity with Soviet-Afghan agreements.

The sun of freedom and social advance is rising ever higher over Afghanistan. The revolution continues.

AFGHANISTAN

HELICOPTER CREWS' EXPLOITS IN DRA DESCRIBED

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[Article by Hero of the Soviet Union writer Ivan Arsent'ev under the rubric "The USSR Armed Forces Today": "Helicopters and Their Pilots"]

[Text] 1.

A distant assignment.... International duty....

Today it is above 48 in the shade and a stifling hell in the helicopter cockpit. You wait and wait for evening to finally come to clear the clammy sweat from your brow that much faster and penetrate the clay barracks where a venerable old air conditioner is droning.

But not everyone has a chance to take it say in a cool "oasis." The crews on duty are at their posts.

Sometime around midnight the order came through: deliver urgent cargo into the mountains and airlift our wounded Afghans. Loading takes 15 minutes and the MI-8 is airborne. There is no moon, the air is clear, and the sky is dotted with large stars. Lights flash below, but they do soon disappear. The helicopter, lights extinguished, climbs higher. You could reach out and touch the massive rocky mountains.

Some 40 minutes after take-off we have climbed almost 3 km. The helicopter crosses a black ravine. The crew actually needs it. Journey's end is at the bottom, but we still have to get down there. Into an abyss! In the daylight you would simply look away because either the ascending or falling air currents suck you in to the rock wall.

The machine of major Oleg Krolik, the squadron's deputy political officer, dives into the dark depths. The stars disappear, and only a narrow strip can be seen above, while there are steep cliffs ahead and on either side. It would be the ideal time to switch on the headlight and flood the gorge with light, but alas! You may be fired upon from there. The dushmans fire heavy mortars, or else, who knows, launch a rocket at the motor from a portable launcher. Al-Sadat in his time sold these launchers to the Pakistanis, and now they have passed them on to the dushmans....

The helicopter's commander orders the crew to keep their eyes peeled. Ye. Khvostikov's helicopter is following on 1 kilometer behind, its task is to cover the leader. This tactic was prompted by the experience of the Great Patriotic War, but even today it is still effective and is being developed and improved. Whereas in the thirties the byword of aviation was "to fly furthest, highest, and fastest," nowadays pilots are required, I am convinced, however paradoxical it may seem, "to fly nearest, lowest, and slowest," and operate in such a way as to be able, figuratively speaking, to give a friendly handshake in flight to a motorized infantryman. And this is why Krolik's helicopter is descending into the stony pit. His crew consists of the pilot, Captain V. Lasukov, and Flight Engineer A. Bublik. All are tense, all are waiting. But for the time being the enemy does not show. Those at the bottom of the abyss are silent, too. Now and again the pilot calls them up on the radio, asking them to show themselves, for he can see nothing. But there is not a sound from the ground.

"If you don't show yourselves I'll hit the cliff and come crashing down on top of you!" the now angry pilot threatens. And it is not hard to understand his state.

Finally, someplace far below there is a barely visible spark of light, as if the wind were blowing out a smoldering cigarette. The helicopter makes for that light. The landing area is perched precariously--the guys on the ground have not exactly done us a favor. The right wheel hits the ground and the left--thin air. The machine pitches sideways, almost catches its blades on the rocks, and then touches down properly.

"Valodya, keep the motor running!" Krolik orders Lasukov. The latter takes the controls. Bublik opens the door. The commander is on terra firma.

"Unload your stuff!" he shouts in the ear of one of the soldiers who has run up. He gives the signal to his companions. They grab the boxes and sacks and make off with them into the darkness. They bring out wounded Afghans on tarpaulins and put them in the cargo hold.

"Is that everyone?" Krolik raises his hand after counting 12 men.

"No, not everyone--there are two more people. They are both heavy.... Take them," the Afghans commander asks through an interpreter.

"I can't take off overloaded..."

Krolik thinks, sighs, and waves his hand: "ok! Go on!"

Engines roaring from the strain, the helicopter unwillingly, almost dubiously, takes off. Again the stars twinkle overhead. The pilots make for them. But where's Khvostikov who was flying behind? He is hovering over the abyss, eyes peeled for any tracer shells aimed at the commander's machine. All around is calm for now.

"Maybe he'll make it," Khvostikov thinks, and immediately, as if to mock him, a dotted line of fire spurts from the left, a little more and it will hit the helicopter carrying the wounded. Khvostikov radioes a warning to the commander, but there is no way back for him in the narrow ravine. There is just one hope left--the Afghan soldiers' fire. They are sitting behind Krolik at the windows with their machineguns at the ready. Their accurate fire has an extremely persuasive effect on the dushmans lurking in the rocks....

Both helicopters head for the airfield. There they are already waiting for the wounded, who are put carefully on stretchers. They are rushed to waiting vehicles, and then... What starts now is nothing new for the pilots: the usual mortar fire! This time the "ruckus" does not last long, for Major Khokhryakov is watching from the air. Seeing from the mortar's trajectory where it is being fired from, he radioes to the ground where the mortar is located....

2.

He's an interesting person, Khokhryakov. He has this restless inventive streak: "Is everything in life so good that we shouldn't try to make it a bit better?" Khokhryakov philosophizes, searches, invents--and here it stood him in good stead.

On the training range, in level flight and on a sunny day, he delivers his bombs, as they say, pretty well. But a real enemy in these circumstances moves around, maneuvers, and concentrates on the nights or the twilight. What can a helicopter pilot see from a great height in darkness? Dim spots. Khokhryakov asked himself the question: What did fighter pilots do in these circumstances during the Great Patriotic War? He delved into it and worked it out: To hit the target accurately you have to see it close up, in other words, bomb and fire while diving. But the "ILS" [Ilyushin-built series of World War II ground-attack planes] left the bomb-damage area at high speeds, but would a slow-moving helicopter get very far? It would blow itself up. And then Khokhryakov did an experiment, trying it out during exercises.

"Goddammit, it came off!" he exulted. The target was destroyed, and in safety. How? He managed to "combine" the bomb's flight trajectory and the dive trajectory.

At first, few had faith in this "home-grown" method with no theoretical basis and calculations.... But ballistics experts were found who worked it all out properly--if you want to learn it, go ahead! Strikes when flying with target designation were especially effective. The target designator drops a bomb and then veers off so as not to be shot down by anti-aircraft guns. It hovers and watches the targets: From high up there is an excellent view of whether it hit or not. And if it missed, that's no problem either, the group is approaching.

"Forty-five!" the group commander calls up the target designator, "this is 40. I see your bomb's explosion. Guide mine onto the target."

"Forty, this is 45! Target 50 meters right of explosion."

The crews arrive and fire as the target designator told them, while he photographs the work.

...I cannot help remembering something that happened in the fall of 1944 on the river Narev, near the town of Lomzha. The guidance group attracted the fascist anti-aircraft gunners' attention and fire with a diversionary maneuver. Meanwhile, I sneaked up to the crossing at low level in my ground attack aircraft and smashed it to smithereens.

In those days the IL-2 ground attack aircraft was nicknamed "hunchback" and when it fired on the fascists they would [word indistinct], crying: "fliegt der schwarze Tod!" ("The black death is flying!") Nowadays, the MI-24 helicopter is also called "hunchback" and the dushmans, like the fascists before them, run every which way, wailing: "(Shaytan-Arba) is flying!" Well, the Afghan helicopter pilots, trained by our instructors, are not to be trifled with, they shoot, with any weapon, like snipers. Tradition is a great thing!

3.

Today they are carrying water in pants! What, it sounds a bit funny? Nonetheless, it is so.

High in the rocky mountains a dushman group had delayed an Afghan troop summit. To the south Pakistan, to the West a mountain ridge, to the north precipitous slopes barely accessible even for mountaineers, and to the east the bandit-held ravine. Who can help apart from helicopter pilots? Helicopter Commander Shakirov agrees, only how are they going to land there? There is not even the smallest "pad." And dropping barrels of water from high up is a waste of time--you would smash them to pieces. But pilots are an experienced lot and very imaginative: You won't find any better container than...the pants of protective overalls! They are light and strong--fill them with water, tie them up, and load them. And they delivered them to the spot--no need to throw them out, you just hover lower and hand them over. It is no sooner said than done! The Afghan soldiers almost tugged the flight engineer's hand off as a sign of gratitude.

Life under military conditions throws up various facts. And sometimes, incidentally, they turn out to be unexpected.

The young pilot Frolov arrived in Afghanistan recently. However, he soon managed to win a reputation as a mediocre pilot in all departments. He just didn't have that pilot's assertiveness. He acted without confidence in emergencies. And, needless to say, he was not appointed leader, because it was considered that he still needed to fly as wingman and perhaps he would learn to get used to it.... And what do you think? The pilot who was thought to be a lummo did something that made everyone gasp.

He was flying, as usual, about 80 meters behind the leader, along a wide valley. Peaceful, checked-our areas, no signs of danger. And suddenly, holy cow! A heavy mortar on the ground is firing at the leader's tail. And not one, but a couple! The commander hasn't seen it, another second and the shells will rip through his machine.

...Since then it was as if Frolov had become a new man. Just where did he get his strength from! He started to fly a lot, competently, boldly, and with a will, he quickly mastered night flying and flights in complex weather conditions.... Why this metamorphosis? I am not going to guess or, as they say, offer a theoretical basis, since these starry moments of a man's life usually encapsulate all his experience and everything he has seen, lived through, and assimilated.

4.

Perhaps a helicopter pilot's most troublesome task is to escort truck convoys. They are constantly fired on from crevices in the rocks, when they go by boulders are pushed down onto the road, and enormous jams are created. But today the way is clear. Both the drivers and Pilot Sergey Bobukh have been lucky: the road is clear and there are no ribbed mountain ridges (handy spots for an ambush)--the flat green zone stretches for more than 30 km. That is why the squadron's deputy political officer is skimming through the air, flying up and down the convoy, scouting around the surrounding country with his eyes, and maintaining contact with the convoy commander's radio.

Everything is calm...And suddenly Bobukh sees a machinegun pumping out bullets at the string of trucks stretching back behind him.

Who? Where from?

Instantly the pilot turns around and rushes to the rear of the convoy. His eyes scour the ground, but the green undergrowth has nowhere even moved.

"Where are they shooting from?" the pilot asks over the radio.

This time it is not him showing the Afghans where the fire is coming from, but the other way around--they are showing him. From ground level the stream of machinegun bullets indicates the direction. Movement slows rapidly, the convoy hardly crawls. The pilot circles again and again above it with his eyes peeled, but in vain: The attackers have taken pains to camouflage themselves. There is nothing to be done but wait until they show themselves again. And they did show themselves: There was an explosion in the middle of the convoy. Bobukh ground his teeth in annoyance.

An amazing stroke of bad luck, while he is at the convoy's rear there is not a peep out of the bandits, but if he so much as moves forward slightly, there they are again at the rear.

The chief of the convoy radios that the driver of the truck that was blown up is in a serious condition--he needs to be evacuated urgently. Bokokh relays the message, and then, apprehensively looking around, lands alongside the blown-up truck. Now he himself has become a suitable target for the dushmans, but you can't abandon a wounded man! The pilots quickly carry the groaning Afghan into the hold, and Bobukh takes off immediately. And 10 seconds later a grenade explodes on that spot.

The airfield radios that a couple of helicopters are halfway toward the convoy and an ambulance is awaiting the wounded man.

Here we must digress and talk about those who directly help the helicopter pilots.

They are led by Captain Engineer V. Kuntsevich, who graduated from the Moscow Aviation Institute and as fate would have it ended up as deputy squadron commander for engineering and aviation services. With no help whatsoever and through the efforts purely of his subordinates, he managed to repair all the equipment under the most difficult field conditions.

Prestige is earned by personal expertise. They even say about the captain engineer that plant quality-controllers entrusted their seal to him (something unheard of!) giving him the right to stamp repaired engines. The Afghan pilots immediately realized that Kuntsevich was a first-class specialist and gave him no peace: Help me, show me, correct this...He won't release a helicopter for operation unless he has been up in it first. To him the machines are like close acquaintances, he knows each one like the back of his hand.

While Bobukh was helping to refuel the machine the helicopters of Sergey Ryabinin and partner appeared over the convoy and started to monitor their zones. Ryabinin's attention was attracted by the dry bed of a stream to the side of the road and the little bridge over it.

"Keep your eye on that," he ordered the flight engineer, and turned back to the trucks.

That very second the flight engineer shouted: "Gunfire! Under the bridge!"

This instantly came to the attention of an Afghan armored transport crew, and a short time later whoever was hiding under the bridge was no more. There were other, hidden pockets of fire elsewhere, but they timidly fell silent....

5.

Well, OK, they say, knocking out individual pockets is a particular case. But what can the helicopter pilots do when there is a clear front line, and a strongly fortified one at that? This can be seen during exercises. I did see.

Some servicemen were preparing to attack, while others were to carry out a preemptive strike against them. I won't talk about the ground forces, but as for the helicopters, they not only bombed the "enemy" at extremely low altitude, but also collaborated marvelously with the motorized riflemen, and by following their orders rapidly suppressed the pockets of resistance.

From the sidelines everything looked very effective, but the acid test was something else. The helicopters only revealed their true potential when the other types of troops gave up: With incomprehensible speed they laid a mixed minefield in the direction of the expected counterstrike by the "enemy's" armored forces. One helicopter (and there were several) can lay many mines at one go....

So, the reception for the tanks which might break through and simultaneously the assault troops was ready, but it is best not to get too close to armored machines but finish them off on the approach. M.Z. Shakirov's already experienced helicopter pilots were instructed to do this.

Using optics, representatives of the opposing sides scan the sky. The time for the strike is imminent, but strangely there are no helicopters to be seen or heard. "They can't be late?" the military commanders exchange looks. No, the helicopters are not late, simply having hidden behind thick treetops they now surge through breaks in the forest toward the target. Right on time to the second their hunchbacked shadows flash through the sky, there are spurts of flame from the guided missiles, and they have disappeared again. The observers only heard the distant rumble of explosions. Barely afterward the umpire's voice is heard on the radio:

"All targets destroyed!"

"Well, comrades," the exercise leader said to the others, "let's get down there. There is an observation mound and we'll get a closeup of what the helicopters hit."

The car drew up to the appointed place. The binoculars scan the rolling plain. All the tank mockups are burning as one. They had been hit by the helicopter pilots. The exercise leader said happily: "Great going, helicopter pilots!"

And we say too: "Great going, Shakirov's helicopter pilots!" [The article is accompanied by a photograph of eight Mi-8 Hip helicopters flying low in close formation over a forest; LITERATURNAYA GAZETA also front-pages two photographs pegged to this item, the first showing three helmeted soldiers described in the caption as "reconnaissance troops on exercise," the second showing seven Hips with lines of "motorized infantrymen" running toward them.]

CSO: 1801/241

AFGHANISTAN

MILITARY TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN DESCRIBED

Kiev PATRIOT BAT'KIVSHCHYNY in Ukrainian 22 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by V. Skryzhalin: "On the Soil of Afghanistan: Heroic Deeds on the Roads"]

[Text] The editors of PATRIOT BAT'KIVSHCHYNY receive letters in which readers ask us to tell about the experience of Soviet military personnel in the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Our officers and men are performing their internationalist duty in difficult conditions. The enemies of the people's rule and imperialist mercenaries are refusing to lay down their arms and are operating as bandits, from ambush.... We publish below an account written by military journalist V. Skryzhalin.

A monument has been erected in the compound of one of the units of the limited Soviet force in Afghanistan, in honor of military truck drivers: a ZIL-130 truck stands on a pedestal made of Afghan fieldstone. This truck, which had been retired from service "for old age," was restored in appearance by military personnel. They patched bullet holes, straightened out dents, and painted the vehicle with the most elegant enamel paint.

In this way the men were honoring a vehicle which embodies the heroic exploits of truck drivers, whose labor in Afghanistan can be compared with service at the battlefield. Driver is a heroic occupation here, if only because truck drivers handle most of the hauling of goods and supplies. Endeavoring to prevent this country from being supplied with the essential goods for a normal life, the dushman [bandits] mine the roads and attack truck convoys. The military truck driver is sometimes the first to be hit by these attacks.

Every run is a serious piece of business, and some runs are more dramatic than others. Here is what a large-circulation military newspaper has to say about military truck drivers.

"The engine proceeded to die on the upgrade. Halting the column, the driver jumped out of the cab. The officer in charge of the convoy, Sr Lt I. Surinov, looked around. There were thick clumps of brush on both sides of the road. Yellow-gray patches of duvals [hovels] peeked through in places. A perfect spot for an ambush.... The driver and mechanics had just fetched their tools, when weapons fire proceeded to spew from the brush.

"Pvts T. Alekhnovich, P. Pozyvaylo, S. Kitayev, and the other drivers displayed enormous self-control, courage and composure. The officer in charge of the convoy, Lt I. Surinov, and his deputy for political affairs, Lt A. Stepanov, skillfully directed their men. By their staunchness and self-control these officers instilled confidence in their men and set a worthy example for them. They were able to save the trucks and their important cargo."

The difficulties of the Afghan roads lie not only in dushman ambushes. Motor transport company commander Sr Lt I. Amirov has encountered ambushes on several occasions. But he named as his most difficult a 400 kilometer run to a remote mountain area, to which they were hauling food, medical supplies, and fuel. The shimmering heat and thick dust en route made it difficult to breathe. The drivers overcame all hardships and successfully delivered their loads.

Several trucks carried loads on the return trip. The drivers of these trucks, including Pvt A. Aliyev, had a harder time of it. Upgrades, downgrades, narrow stretches where the right side of the truck was scraping the rock face, while the wheels on the left side were practically hanging out over a sheer precipice -- it is more difficult to drive such a road with a laden vehicle. Abdulbasir negotiated his truck along stretches like this, and occasionally pulled empty trucks to boot.

Who is put in charge of the technical maintenance echelon bringing up the rear of a motor transport column? Usually the most technically knowledgeable officer or warrant officer. This is inadequate for Afghanistan. Here the person in charge must possess the following qualities: a high degree of general military proficiency, boldness, and the ability quickly to make the only correct decision.

A truck halted. Several minutes were allowed for getting it going again, and not one second more. If efforts failed, hook up a tow cable and pull it to the nearest strongpoint. Even these few minutes are enough, however, for the convoy to proceed several kilometers. A disabled truck and three or four vehicles from the technical maintenance echelon -- a perfect target for an ambush! This is why Sr Lt S. Yur'yev and Pvts S. Chernyayev and R. Mutygulin are assigned to this duty more frequently than others. They will not lose their head under any circumstances.

Military truck drivers have a great many difficulties in winter. A person climbing the Salang Pass will note a metal bridge which somebody "repositioned" 300 meters further down in the gorge. That "somebody" was an avalanche.

A convoy of fuel tanker trucks led by Lt M. Ksentsev once was caught in such an avalanche. The snow immediately covered five tanker trucks. One truck was propelled by the avalanche into the abyss below. The driver, Sgt M. Savosh, kept his head: grabbing his assault rifle, he jumped out of the cab and by some miracle succeeded in scrambling across the moving stream of snow to safety. In saving their own lives, the men did not forget about their comrades or their equipment. None of the drivers was lost.

This did not end the military truck drivers' ordeal, however. Another avalanche was imminent, and the prediction was that it would cross approximately the center of the convoy. It was impossible to proceed ahead: the road was clogged with snow, which they had just begun to clear. The road clearing operation would take considerable time. There was only one way out -- to retreat. Other vehicles were moving up the pass behind them, however. It would be impossible for them to turn around or back up, as such a maneuver would be made difficult by the fact that they were semitrailer rigs.

Sgt V. Pluzhnik and Pvt V. Dremov displayed quickness of wit and expert skill. They managed to drive their MAZ trucks past the following trailer-rig convoy, literally doing a balancing act along the edge of the abyss, between trucks and precipice. They then labored several hours without rest, bringing their trucks down the icy road. Their efforts succeeded. The avalanche failed to bury a single truck: all were withdrawn to safety.

Soviet military personnel, including truck drivers, are doing a difficult and critically important job in Afghanistan. This job is concisely defined within the meaningful term performance of internationalist obligation.

3024

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AFGHANISTAN

SUKHODOL'SKIY DESCRIBES SALANG TUNNEL ACTIVITIES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Jan 84 p 3

[Article by Engr-Lt Col V. Sukhodol'skiy: "Salang--From the Afghan Notebook"]

[Text] Oh, Salang, Salang.... I close my eyes and I see once again the lines of Afghan vehicles--now silvery "tankers," now "burubukhayki," now KamAz's carrying snow-white bags of carbamide.... And I can make out my companion, officer Vasilii Men'shikov, in the blackness of the night, as he walks ahead of us in the headlights and knocks on the cabs of the vehicles stopped for the night in a covered passage and blocking the roadway. He knocks on the cabs and asks them to move aside. The figures of the drivers in their ghostly Eastern clothing flash through the night, motors start to rumble and the way is cleared for us. We slowly move forward until we come out into the open. Here we are at the "Southern" dispatch point. Now we are rushing through a completely empty tunnel in the night, moving ever upward. A green light flashes. At 3,363 meters this is the highest point, and the road starts down. The electric lights merge in one's vision into a single vague, blurred line.... The tunnel comes to an end and we stop at the "Northern" dispatch point.

I see in the rays of the setting sun the powerful mountain, whitewashed with snow, the yawning tunnel mouth and the old road--a serpentine line, half obstructed by stones, over which we slowly make our way upward. There at the top we can clearly hear the even sighing of this powerful block of stone through which man has pushed his way from one end to the other. They say that there is no higher tunnel in the world....

An obelisk on the Salang, a red star and tin wings--the emblem of the motor vehicle specialists--will not leave my mind. It was erected in honor of the Soviet and Afghan drivers.... I can see a black bluff on the approach to the tunnel and hear my companion say that for some reason bandits attack the columns most frequently near the black bluff. Four days before his armored personnel was shelled here, not far from the watermill. The gunner was a poor shot, however. Here is the indentation in the asphalt. A large-caliber machine gun was used.... Off to the right the skeletons of motor vehicles form a pile of burned, rusty metal along the river, the beautiful mountain river, also called the Salang. This is the aftermath of a recent attack by bandits upon a peaceful Afghan column.

The road is amazingly beautiful. I recall the words of a general who accompanied me to the Salang, who had been there more than once: "Do you know what I dream

about doing? The years will go by, and I will travel as a tourist, an old, gray-haired man, with my grandchildren to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. I will choose a route which will take us through the Salang, so that they can see the bright sun and the yellow foliage, so that we can stop at every shop (dukan), drink the cool water and buy sweets.... And take flowers to the obelisks in the mountains."

Such a time will come! The Afghan people will drive out the last bandit. Tourists will come to the country. There will be something for them to look at. It is a country of amazing beauty! And the road to the Salang is just about the most brilliant jewel in that colorful Afghan ornament....

Senior Lieutenant Abdul Vakil sat next to me in the armored personnel carrier. A political worker, he graduated from the (Tsarandoy) Academy. In Jalalabad counterrevolutionaries burned the home of his parents and killed his brother and his three children. He has been with his company here at the Salang for 7 years, and he will remain here until the revolution gains a final victory. This is what he told me as he looked off intently beyond a bridge which appeared in front of us....

Just what is this Salang? In a nation where there are no railways, where the motor vehicle and the camel bring the people everything--from sewing needles to modern machine tools--where the capital is linked with our nation by the solitary Kabul-Termez road, in such a nation the importance of this road is not simply great: It is a road of life for the republic. The Hindu Kush was in the way of the road, and it was decided to tunnel through the mountain at the very highest point on the route. They dug, gouged and blasted their way through it and produced this tunnel, which saved the nation millions of afghanis. It was built by the Soviet Union. It was a grand construction project, a real project of friendship. The results of the work are a tunnel 2.7 kilometers long and around 2 kilometers of covered passages.

Abdul Vakil talked about a sad event which had occurred a year before. The motor of one of the vehicles suddenly died in the tunnel. The column came to a halt. No one turned off his vehicle's motor, and the gas built up with appalling speed. The ventilation system could not handle all of it. Too many vehicles had already entered the tunnel. Before the road service workers arrived and the path was cleared, many of the drivers had lost consciousness and some of them had suffocated. After that the Afghans asked the Soviet motor vehicle specialists to help put things in order. A year before, Lieutenant Colonel Romanov, a communist, had arrived at the Salang with a subunit. "Meet him," I was advised in Kabul. "He and Afghan Colonel Jamaluddin are the two people responsible for the fact that the Salang now runs like clockwork, like a good, well adjusted and checked clock."

I did not have to hunt for Romanov. He leapt out of a car at the "Northern"--dark, with a long nose and a black mustache, he was dressed in a sheepskin coat belted at the waste and a fur cap. We introduced ourselves, and a moment later he was already on his way toward the "Southern" in his gazik. We did not talk until that evening. The Afghan columns traveled the roads only in the daytime. They spent the night in communities, afraid of attacks by plundering enemies (dushman). It was therefore quiet in the tunnel in the evening. It was quiet in

our car, on the roof of which soft, wet snow was falling. It had been snowing for several hours, and when we went outside--Romanov was waiting for one of our tank columns to return from an exercise--we did not recognize the pass. Everything was white. The telephone rang. It was Senior Lieutenant Yuriy Kostachev reporting from the "Southern" that the tanks had entered the tunnel. A few minutes later there was a rumbling in the tunnel. Our car shook. Now the tanks had passed by, leaving their ribbed tracks in the fresh white snow.

"No one else will come before morning," Romanov told me, and we went back inside to talk and to listen....

Oh, Romanov, Romanov! You alone know how many times in a day your gazik will dart from the "Northern" to the "Southern" dispatch point, how much energy and effort you have invested here this past year. You alone know...

He is from the kolkhoz "K kommunizmu," from the town of Kalyn, Kamenets-Podolskiy Rayon, Khmel'nitskiy Oblast. His father, Aleksandr Antonovich, fought on the Stalingrad front and reached Prague as a company first sergeant. "He will have a little glass on a holiday and begin reminiscing about Stalingrad," his son told me with a smile....

I asked him about his last name. It is not a Ukrainian name. Vasiliy Aleksandrovich explained that one of the czars had traveled through the Ukraine, spent the night near their village, taken a liking to the place...and condescended to favor the peasants with the name Romanov. And so there came to be Sedorenkos and Ivanenkos, Petrenkos and Voznyukos with the name Romanov. He has two daughters--the eldest is Lena, the youngest Oksana. He regrets that he was not there to see Oksana enter the first grade....

It was the subunit's mission to maintain the uninterrupted movement of the motor vehicle columns on the pass, to mop up after snowslides and mudflows, and to prevent sabotage. Romanov told me with pride that they had greeted the winter fully prepared. This applied first and foremost to living conditions. There are dryers and washstands at each dispatch point--something which did not exist before. There are dining halls and kitchens. And bathhouses! And then there was warm clothing: felt boots, quilted jackets, trousers, sheepskin coats and mittens. The equipment had been readied. They had hauled in everything they would need, including sand, from a distance of 1,500 kilometers. Yes, they need sand here. It is not a rare thing for the area to ice over.

"We can't complain about life here. How did we celebrate the New Year? We celebrated in this car. There was a tree, and Senior Lieutenant Oleg Basistyy played Jack Frost. There were New-Year trees at all the sites. I visited the stations on New Year's eve and wished the men a happy New Year. It is too bad that we don't have television. We listened to the radio. Each of us had his own memories, but everyone remembered Moscow....

"I have very fine men," Romanov said and began telling me about each of them in detail. Even now, as I leaf through my notebook, I am returned to that night on the Salang and I hear Romanov speaking with a cold:

"Senior Warrant Officer Vladimir Tarasov is the subunit sergeant major. He has planted trees and flowers around the place. In these rocks here.... And what a bathhouse he has, and what a vegetable storage facility! He has hauled soil down for seedbeds. He is waiting for spring to come, dreaming about hothouses. He is from Kalininskiy, from the Volga. He married on his latest leave....

"Lieutenant Vasilii Kovalev is responsible for our communications. He came to the Salang immediately after graduating. He did not think he could handle the job. Communications is not a simple matter. He has proven himself beautifully, however! At night, in a blizzard, in freezing weather, he will take two men and go out to restore communication. A marvelous lieutenant. We are planning to accept him into the party. I wrote his recommendation myself."

Romanov talked about those who had departed from the Salang, leaving a good memory in the hearts of the soldiers. Naturally, he also talked about those who were there at the time, during that January of blizzard conditions: Major Anatoliy Andrianov, Senior Lieutenant Lut Soyusanov, Senior Lieutenant Vladimir Sagaydachnyy, Lieutenants Anatoliy Bortkevich and Vladimir Samykhin, and Senior Warrant Officer Anatoliy Belov.

Romanov nodded toward an officer resting on the top bunk (the beds in the car are in two tiers): "Write about him, about Senior Lieutenant Gerasim Gerasimovich Matyukin. It snowed for 3 days, drifting heavily. The vehicles stopped running. The blizzard was so bad, you couldn't see your hand in front of you. He led our soldiers out to the line on foot to save some Afghan drivers. All of them were brought in and given something to eat and drink. Otherwise, they would have frozen!"

The Salang. Since the first day of construction it has always been a symbol of our friendship. And Romanov has many friends there. Colonel Jamaluddin, Captain Ako Muhammad, Senior Lieutenant Abdul Vakil. Ventilator operator Aziz is an industrious, reliable person. He sometimes wears a brand-new single-breasted uniform jacket like that worn by our officers. He will smile and say: "Romanov gave this to Aziz."

When I left there was alarm on the Salang. Information had come in that bandits were preparing to sabotage the tunnel. One of the columns approaching the pass included their vehicles, carrying explosives and mines. Sappers with dogs were called in. Surveillance was stepped up. Those vehicles did not reach the pass....

Oh, Salang, my Salang.... Mudslides will block your bridges. Avalanches will fall from your mountains. Blizzards will block your passages with snow. Bullets from bandits will riddle the cabs of peaceful vehicles.

The Salang lives, though! And it functions with clockwork.

11499

CSO: 1801/188

AFGHANISTAN

POETRY REVIEW FAILS TO INFORM THAT POET STOVBA WAS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 83 p 4

[Article by Ivan Pankeyev: "A Star Is Born in Fire"]

[Text] He did not consider himself a poet--and never saw a single line of his published--two books came out after his heroic death. But everyone who reads them will say: Alexander Stovba was a poet.

The 22-year-old officer died while honorably discharging his international duty. Somehow he never got around to publishing his verse. In some instances the opportunity was lacking, in others, the time--his was the nomadic existence of a soldier in the field. And there were times when he fell prey to uncertainty, cowed by the thought that a step into literature would place him in the ranks of those whose names are on the lips of thousands. But he did think up a title for his future book, a sharply-chiseled, impassioned, life-affirming title--"A Star Is Born in Fire." He was not fated to experience the emotional trepidation of an author seeing his verse in print, signed with his name, Alexander Stovba, but that trepidation will be felt by the thoughtful and considerate reader when he takes into his hands two just-published books of verse by Alexander Stovba--"A Star Is Born in Fire" (Library of the Komsomol Central Committee magazine MOLODAYA GWARDIYA, 1983, No 39 (94)) and "Heroism's Immortal Flight" (VOYENIZDAT, 1983). It is regrettable that the insufficient number of copies printed will not allow the books to reach a wider audience.

Schoolboy, cadet, lieutenant... Classes, military school, army service... Is that much or little? Measured by time--little, by the facts of his destiny--a lifetime. Is a cadet's existence easy? Or an officer's? To those unfamiliar with it, it is. The day is planned to the last minute, crammed to the limit: studies, route marches, quick marches, practice, detail duty, studies again--no wonder they call it combat training. Can you have verses in your head when you're too tired to stand on your feet? Those verses, though, are pitiless. They give you no rest. A line, once it erupts into being and impacts on your mind and lights up your soul, that line demands another, and yet another, and so on to full completion. It demands toil. That exhausting, sweat-filled toil without which nothing in the world is ever brought into being and creativity simply does not exist. Is that not

why his poetry evokes an image of something swift, something in headlong flight, like a star, a meteorite, an arrow? Is that not why one senses in that poetry the constant pressure of time on the author, a pressure that haunted him every hour of the day? Many of the poems do so begin, bursting in on you with their first line, restlessly, instantaneously, using the active verb to deliver their message.

Stovba is endowed with a well-developed feel for the word, a desire to express much with a minimum of words. And he believes in miracles, in the extraordinary.

We enter life
Naively and with ease,
Confusing
Reality with dreams.
We view the world
With open eyes,
Without deep concealment
Of [our] faith in miracles.

There was no book yet, only visions about one, but the verses were entering his notebook, migrated over to the pages of his comrades' notebooks, remained in his writing pads or single slips of paper. Alexander Stovba did, however, complete an address to his future reader. Somewhat on the exalted side, with the solemn "Comrade!", and heartfelt:

"Comrade! These verses may be not too well written and someone else could have written them better than I. But they are my thoughts and my friends, and they carry in them a small part of my soul which even I myself do not understand. Befriend them and do not reproach me for not having enough time to make them better."

No doubt he could have improved much of what went into the two books. But would they have remained so open-hearted in each and every image, each and every metaphor, and would they have retained their candor? The poet and his poetry are inseparable, their destinies intertwined. Beyond the stanza we look for a citizen poet. I do not know how the following lines would have been perceived before the word "posthumously" appeared in the officer's citation:

...But life will pass,
Dissolve like smoke,
Yet one last second
Will be its gift to me
To be an example of courage
For the young.

Today these lines are perceived not only as being biographical. There is no prediction in them, no foreboding, and certainly no grandstanding, but rather a readiness for heroism. An understanding of heroism as a state of the soul,

a dictate of the heart which is difficult to explain but impossible to disobey. It is no accident that the theme of heroism in the service of the Motherland, and the people is one of the leading themes in A. Stovba's work.

Alexander Stovba held the view that one must fight to the last gasp for life on earth, for a wonderful life--peaceful, pure, full of happiness and love.

Not to be overlooked is one more important detail which has a direct bearing on the two books of verse here discussed. Both consist of works that had to be located, collected, authenticated, systemized and readied for publication, which is a lot of work. It was done by the compiler of both collections, the young critic P. Tkachenko (one of the books closes with an article by him analyzing the poet's endeavor). There are kind words on A. Stovba's verse in the foreword by the well-known Soviet poet Mikhail L'vov, a war veteran, who states with conviction that "...he would have matured into a vivid and resonant poet of the modern age, for that he had everything."

The books have been published. As we take them off the shelf, let us not hurry, let us read them slowly, pausing to think, to share the emotions. Because it is we they are addressed to, and much of what is in them is about us.

One of the last poems of Alexander Stovba

On the slopes of blue mountains,
Where russet sunsets
So gladdened the eye,
I learned to live again,
That is, to love, and to believe.

The land I love
Is not on any map.
I have it hidden in my heart,
It's in my dreams--
Amid blue dawns,
Far from travail,
It's filled with nightingale songs
And rainbow-hued flowers;
Its people are so fair,
So fair and so honest,
So sincere and ardent
Like the first ray of spring.
In them alone I found myself,
And with my heart responding to the call,
Without hesitation
Would give my life for them.