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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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27 APRIL 1987

USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

CONTENTS

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

Officer Recruitment: Kabardino-Balkar Oblast (Ye. Yeliseyev; AGITATOR, Mar 87)	1
---	---

ARMED FORCES

PRC Reports Soviet Strategic Deception Agency (WEN ZHAI BAO, No 362, 6 Nov 86)	2
Creative Research of Rationalizers (I. Sopin; VOYENNIY VESTNIK, No 5, May 86)	3
Letters to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Editor, Responses, Nov-Dec 86 (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, various dates)	7
Quarters Improperly Assigned, by M. Ziyeminsh	7
Military Sanitorium Abuses Corrected	9
Construction Innovation Work Smoothed, by M. Simakov	10
Improper Use of Soldiers Criticized, by G. Ivanov	11
Results of Letters to Editors Discussed	14
Rural Primary Military Training Improved	15
Post Exchange Service Criticized, by A. Soldatov	16
Junior Commander Selection Discussed, by V. Kozhokhin, G. Kochurov	17
Party Influences Military Press	19
Pilot Training Criticized, by V. Chirkov	20

GROUND FORCES

Discussion of 130-MM Gun, M-46 (V. Knyazkov; VOYENNYE ZNANIYA, No 11, Nov 86)	23
--	----

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

U.S. Libya Raid Discussed
(A. Pavlov; VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY,
No 10, Oct 86) 28

NAVAL FORCES

Work of Nis Service Post in Straits Lauded
(V. Gromak; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 25 Dec 86) 34

Realistic Fire-Fighting Training Reported
(V. Verbitskiy; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 21 Dec 86) 37

Mine-Sweeping Exercise Noted
(S. Bazilchuk; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 27 Nov 86) 40

CIVIL DEFENSE

Briefs
Leave for Medical Workers? 42

FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

APN: U.S. Continues Preparations for Bacteriological War
(APN MILITARY BULLETIN, No 4, Feb 87) 43

General Urges Importance of Defense Resources
(Vitaly Shabanov; SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW, No 3, Mar 87) . 46

AFGHANISTAN

Mountain Training in Central Asian MD Discussed
(N. Ivanov, V. Chepiga; SOVETSKIY VOIN, No 1, 1987) 49

Japanese Assistance to Insurgents Cited
(V. Golovin; SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 17 Dec 86) 53

Insurgent Defections, Attempts To Halt Peace Process Cited
(V. Akulov; PRAVDA, 5 Feb 87) 55

Work of DRA Military Pilots Praised
(A. Oliynik; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 27 Dec 86) 56

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

OFFICER RECRUITMENT: KABARDINO-BALKAR OBLAST

[Editorial Report] Moscow AGITATOR in Russian, Number 5 of March 1987 carries on pages 22-25 a 2900-word article by Ye. Yeliseyev, the 1st Secretary of the Kabardino-Balkar Obkom entitled "Lessons of Patriotism and Internationalism." The article discusses predraft training and the ideological-moral upbringing of young people. He notes that during the last five year period there was an increase in legal violations among young people between the ages of 14 and 18, due to, among other things, alcoholism and drug addiction. In 1985 the oblast sent 77 recruits into various officers' schools. Of this group of 77, 20 were of the indigenous nationality. The physical qualifications of draftees remains a problem, however. A check at the military commissariate's assembly point showed that only 40% of draftees were able to pass the GTO [Ready for Labor and Defense] norms.

ARMED FORCES

PRC REPORTS SOVIET STRATEGIC DECEPTION AGENCY

Beijing WEN ZHAI BAO in Chinese No 362, 6 Nov 86 p 1

[Article extracted from GUOJI WENTI ZILIAO [INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MATERIALS], No 19: "The Soviet Army's Strategic Deception Agency"]

[Text] There is a pivotal, extremely powerful special agency in the Soviet armed forces--the Strategic Deception General Department [zhanlue qipian zongju 2069 3970 2952 7499 4920 1444]--whose existence was unknown to the intelligence agencies of the world before a lieutenant from Soviet military intelligence defected to the West. Established in 1968, the Bureau is nominally subordinate to the Headquarters of the General Staff. It consists of seven departments--one of which, Department No 7, has responsibility for the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks--and a central command. The latter takes charge of tracking all intelligence-gathering satellites and space stations and issuing long- and short-range forecasts concerning what times satellites pass over Soviet territory or territorial waters. Such data form the basis of military orders to subordinate units to turn off all radio transmitters and radar at appropriate times. At the same time, radio transmitters and radar charged with deception go into action by sending out misleading transmissions to enemy satellites. Western intelligence analysts estimate that the Soviet Union spends as much as \$4 billion annually on the manufacture of disinformation by the General Bureau, the KGB, and other agencies.

In addition to the above-mentioned tasks, the bureau has several other major responsibilities: camouflaging important targets and putting up bogus targets to foil enemy reconnaissance, studying news reports and then issuing false information to foreign news organizations, enforcing secrecy in the Soviet military and armaments industries to safeguard national secrets, fabricating and disseminating phony intelligence to trick the enemy into making mistaken assessments and wrong moves, and coordinating the activities of various branches of the Soviet armed forces to create favorable conditions for surprise attacks in times of war.

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CSO: 4005/245

ARMED FORCES

CREATIVE RESEARCH OF RATIONALIZERS

Moscow VOYENNIY VESTNIK in Russian No 5, May 86 pp 83-85

[Article by Lt Col I. Sopin: "Creative Research of Rationalizers"]

[Text] In the units and formations of the Southern Group of Forces, much attention is being paid to the intensification of combat and political training and to the search for and introduction of efficient methods of fulfilling special tactical tasks. A significant role in this belongs to rationalizers and inventors. Experience shows that where innovators work actively the tasks in raising combat readiness are resolved more successfully.

Thus, for example, the rationalization proposals introduced in the formations commanded by the officers A. Polyn, Ye. Tarasov, S. Sidorov, A. Zhitarev made it possible to reduce the time for assembly under alerts and to accelerate the fulfillment of the standards of combat preparedness. And the innovators of the platoons commanded by senior lieutenants S. Yershov and G. Sobolev did much to help these formations occupy top positions in competition in field training.

It is possible to cite many rationalization proposals that facilitate the resolution of tasks in the chemical supply of combat operations. The duties of Maj A. Ustinov, for example, frequently require him to make calculations on the loading of machines and cars with different defense systems. The work is labor-intensive and requires a lot of time. The innovator made it his goal to accelerate it. The result was the creation of a simple but easily usable ruler. It is composed of an immovable and a movable disk and an indicator. On the immovable disk is a circular concentric scale. Its large divisions express the number of cars and the small divisions show parts of the area of one car. The adjacent scale of the movable disk shows different types and quantities of equipment of the chemical forces and defense systems. At a specific setting of both disks, one can immediately read the load standards.

The principle of the calculation is based on the correspondence of the scales of the movable and immovable disks. The divisions become larger in a clockwise direction. Having matched the beginnings of both scales, it is necessary to put the indicator on the required quantity of some kind of armament or other or defense system entered on the movable disk and to read the data of the carload on the immovable disk.

At the initiative and with the personal participation of Maj Ye. Tarasov, head of a computational-analytical station (RAST), a duty-officer's stand was developed and fabricated with built-in dosimetric instruments and a landing weather set as well as an electrified map with data on the situation. Here there is a loudspeaker link with the departments as well as several rules and templates for calculations to evaluate the consequences of enemy use of weapons of mass defeat. The template developed by the RAST rationalizers for plotting the chemical situation on the map is worthy of special attention. It permits a rapid and accurate determination and map depiction of regions where the enemy is using toxic substances and the boundaries of the zones of chemical contamination.

The template is made of organic glass (see Figure 1) and has a thickness of 2 mm and dimensions of 295 x 160 mm. Drawn on the template are two tables and a rhumb circle showing the direction of the wind near the ground. In the center part are openings of different shapes and dimensions, numbered from 1 to 21, which are intended for plotting the regions of enemy chemical strikes on the map. The upper table (No 1) shows the areas of such regions in square kilometers as a function of the type of toxic substance and the means of application. Here, using a different color, are given the numbers of the openings that are to be used for plotting them on the map. The lower table (No 2) gives data on the depth of the spread of the primary and secondary clouds of contaminated air as a function of the means of delivery, the type of toxic substance and the speed of the wind near the ground. The template also has longitudinal openings for plotting the zones of the spread of the contaminated air in the open and in forest areas.

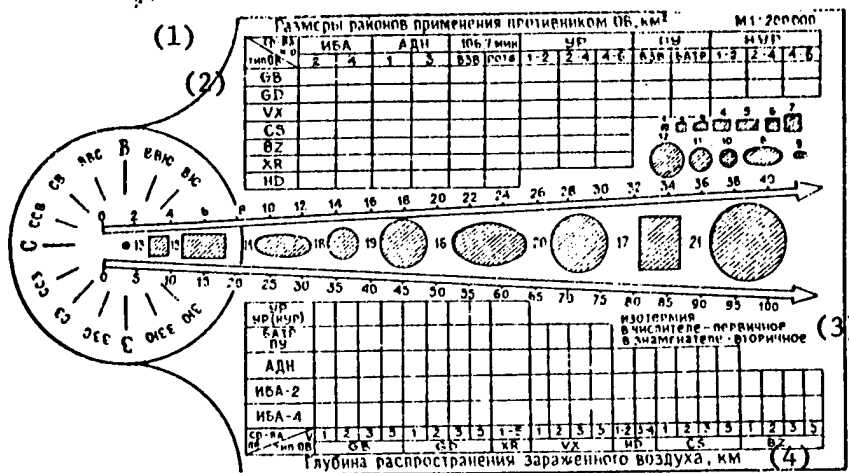


Figure 1. Template for Plotting the Chemical Situation Arising As a Result of the Enemy's Use of Poisonous Substances

Key:

1. Area of the regions where the enemy is using toxic substances, in square kilometers
2. Type of toxic substance
3. Isothermy. Primary in the numerator, secondary in the denominator.
4. Depth of the spread of contaminated air, in kilometers

The sequence of the work with the template is the following. With the receipt of information on the use of chemical weapons by the enemy, it is essential to specify the attack system and the type of toxic substance. With this data, find in the first table the ordinal number of the geometric figure (opening) and the area of the contamination. Plot on the map the region of the use of the toxic substance. Knowing the enemy's means of applying the toxic substance and its type as well as the wind speed, find in Table 2 the depth of the spread of the primary and secondary clouds of the toxic substance.

Apply the template to the map so that the wind direction on the rhumb circle is parallel to the vertical line of the coordinate grid and plot the band of the spread of the dangerous concentrations of the toxic substance on the tangents to the boundaries of the contaminated region. Experience in instructional practice has shown that by using the template the time for the calculation and plotting of the situation on the map is reduced by 15 to 20 percent.

To protect personnel against the enemy's present-day toxic substances, it is extremely important to make a proper selection of the gas mask-helmet. Considerable time is spent on this and errors are made. Capt A. Ryzhikh, one of our most active rationalizers, proposed an electrified stand for the rapid determination of the dimensions of the facial parts of gas masks being issued to personnel (see Figure 2).

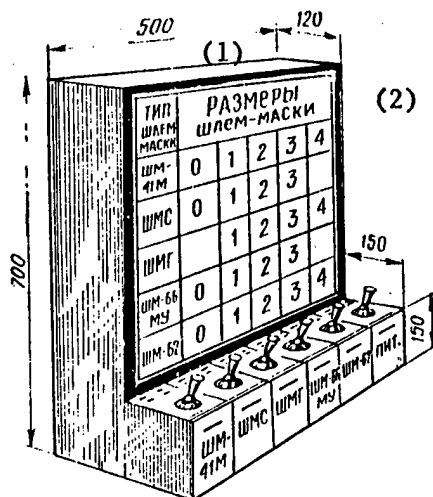


Figure 2. Stand for Determining the Sizes of Gas Mask-Helmets Issued to Personnel

Key:

1. Type of mask-helmet
2. Sizes of mask-helmets

It consists of a control stand, a luminous display board indicating the size and type of the facial part, and a measuring device. The housing is made of plywood.

The sequence of the work with the stand is the following. Turn on the switch to power the lighted board and subsequently the switch corresponding to the model of the facial parts being issued. There may be several of them. Connect the measuring device to the stand and with its help measure the head of the next serviceman. After closing the corresponding contacts, the size of the facial part lights up on the board. The stand makes it possible to determine the sizes of five types of facial parts of gas masks. The power is supplied through cells of the "Mars" type or through the power network.

Rationalizers of the chemical defense unit where Maj L. Polyn serves have produced a stationary point for refueling automatic dispensing stations with dichloroethane. It is a complex of five R-4 tanks and pipeline systems with valves. The tanks are set up in covered reservoirs (boxes) over the parking places of the machines. Dichloroethane or another liquid flows directly into the ARS-14 tanks by gravity through metallic or flexible tubing. The apparatus makes it possible to refuel machines in a few minutes, which is especially important when they are under alert.

Many were interested in the proposal by Sr Lt A. Smirnov for an apparatus for the remote-controlled start-up of SKhT from the stand of the unit duty officer as well as in the alarm system at guarded facilities devised by Sr Ensign G. Siplivets, which helps in the quality performance of duty through a daily job order.

Communist and Lt Col B. Mazan is giving a lot of attention to the organization of rationalization work. His subordinates devised original equipment for undermining the simulation fields of chemical and engineering-chemical obstructions, high-explosive shells with a training incendiary mixture, imitators of nuclear blasts, and also for the remote-controlled release of smoke. All of this makes possible the establishment of an instructive situation in special tactical exercises and other field pursuits.

At the same time, unfortunately, innovators are not so active everywhere. Thus, for example, the officers A. Polyakov, V. Voytin, V. Chetveryakov, A. Goresanskiy and others are still not establishing the conditions for the comprehensive development of their creativity. The targets and plans given to them for inventive and rationalizing work are being fulfilled only 20 to 30 percent at best. Neither are they considering the circumstance that the extensive involvement of personnel in this work has great educational significance. Enthusiasm and active creative research have a favorable impact on soldiers and contribute to the formation of a moral atmosphere in the collective.

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LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES, NOV--DEC 86

Quarters Improperly Assigned

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Nov 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Col M. Ziyeminsh, Red Banner Baltic Military District:
"Slander; Follow-up to a Letter"]

[Text] The company sergeant-major, Senior Warrant Officer [praporshchik] F. Gleza, lived with the joyous expectancy of a new home soon. It was said in everyone's hearing that a three-room apartment had been allotted to the unit and he, the father of two growing daughters, appears first on the lists for the improvement of housing conditions. Many had already congratulated Feliks Ivanovich, being sincerely happy for the sergeant-major: he is taking leave of a hotel-type room and will move to a good apartment.

However, it was soon learned that it was early to rejoice. One more claimant unexpectedly appeared for the apartment which should have been offered to Gleza in accordance with the established procedure....

"For the two years and four months which I served in the unit no one said that I was working badly," Senior Warrant Officer Gleza wrote the editors. "But since the unit was allotted an apartment I seemed to become the most malicious violator of military discipline. During the period when the question of to whom this apartment should be allotted was being solved, four punishments appeared in my service card. Everything is being done to give the appearance of legality in allotting the apartment to another person who arrived in the unit after me. The chairman of the quarters commission, Colonel A. Paukshin, stated that there is a directive from the higher organs concerning the allocation of an apartment from the unit's resources to Warrant Officer M. Stetsenko."

Unfortunately, everything of which Senior Warrant Officer Gleza wrote to the editors proved, on checking, to be correct. Moreover, the matter threatened to take a turn which was completely unexpected for the letter's author. The question of his release to the reserve had been posed at a high level. And a suitable cause for this had been found: Gleza's enlistment period had just ended. He had signed a request for extension of service. The unit commander reacted to the request as follows: "Go wherever you wish, I have no need for such warrant officers. And receive quarters from the one you complain to." The same thing in essence, but in a more delicate form, was also said to the wife of Senior Warrant Officer Gleza, Zhanna Ivanovna who, in trying to help her husband, appealed to

a higher echelon by letter. Major General V. Merenkov, the district's deputy chief of the rear who conducted the investigation in accordance with the letter, literally wrote the following: "I consider as rightful the decision taken by the command of the large unit concerning the rejection of your husband, Senior Warrant Officer F. I. Gleza, in extending his period of service in connection with the violations of military discipline which have occurred and a number of strict disciplinary punishments imposed on him."

To put it mildly, not everything in this reply corresponds to reality. For example, the initiative concerning the refusal to extend Gleza's extension of his period of service did not at all belong to the large-unit command. As was learned, such an order reached the unit by telephone from Colonel B. Ponomarev, a staff officer of the district's rear. According to the words of the large-unit command, he insisted that this order be drawn up in written form, and Colonel Ponomarev assured them: the appropriate paper will arrive. However, it did not arrive. Evidently, Colonel Ponomarev did not dare assume responsibility for such an unworthy undertaking.

I also tried to make inquiries concerning the personality of Warrant Officer Stetsenko who played such a fateful role in the quarters question. I turned to several echelons, including the district personnel directorate. Unfortunately, I was not able to learn very much. By a strange coincidence, I did not find any materials which describe him in the warrant officer's personal file. Where his service card got lost is also unknown. In any case, Colonel A. Shelepin, with whom I spoke on this occasion, had no idea of where to look for these documents.

By the way, such confusion is explainable, because according to documents Warrant Officer Stetsenko is listed in the post of commander of a firing platoon in one garrison and lives in another where he has also been allotted an apartment as "acutely needing." But a question arises here: just what circumstances served as the basis for the immediate allotting to Warrant Officer Stetsenko housing from a unit where he is not on the roster?

In the folders of the official papers of the garrison KECh [billeting unit] there is a document signed by Major General Merenkov ordering the housing commission of the troop unit to "examine the question of granting living space to Warrant Officer Stetsenko." And there is also his written instruction: "Provide for the allocation of living space first of all in connection with his daughter's illness." A seemingly serious basis. But here is the opinion of the specialists concerning the child's health. The deputy chief surgeon for medical affairs of children's polyclinic No 1, Zh. Strode, and Major of Medical service A. Vagara drew the conclusion fully responsibly: "Not one of the sicknesses which the daughter of Warrant Officer Stetsenko has is suitable for the list of diseases which give persons suffering from these diseases the right to the immediate receipt of quarters."

It would appear that everything is clear. But when the legality of settling Stetsenko in a new apartment was raised, the latter turned to the polyclinic a second time for a "justifying" document. However, this time, too, they issued him a certificate similar in content to the one which was issued earlier. Nevertheless, Warrant Officer Stetsenko operated in conformance with the order which had been received.

And Senior Warrant Officer Gleza rightfully poses the question: why were they so unfair to him? Many responsible officers took part in the correspondence which was conducted in this connection. Some arrived and investigated on the spot. But, for some reason, no one considered it necessary to delve thoroughly into all details of the conflict. The lack of objectivity and superficial examination of some inspectors determined ahead of time the incorrect notion of this matter among those who arrived right behind them. Each new inspector, trusting in the meticulousness of his predecessor, easily agreed with his conclusion. This is how it was with Colonel V. Dmitriyev who, having checked the facts, reported through channels that Warrant Officer Stetsenko received housing in the garrison on a lawful basis. He also certified that "no instances of incorrect actions and threats on the part of the unit command in relation to Senior Warrant Officer Gleza were discovered." Although many knew about the undertaking concerning the release of the company sergeant-major in the unit and in general it was simple to ascertain the details connected with it.

To this, it should be added that someone began persistently to spread rumors to the effect that Senior Warrant Officer Gleza is virtually an inveterate drunkard whose weakness for alcohol is so great that it has shifted interest in service to the background. These rumors were knowingly false because a weakness for alcohol by Senior Warrant Officer Gleza was not noted. It is simply that someone wanted to "legitimize" the injustice and discredit a decent person.

Here, we should give credit to the tenacity of Feliks Ivanovich. However difficult it is for him now, he does not intend to give up and he is performing the duties of company sergeant-major in an exemplary manner.

Recently, a compromise version was proposed to Gleza: they announced officially that housing will be offered to his family first of all with its arrival from the garrison; just, they say, stop complaining and don't raise the question of the apartment issued to Warrant Officer Stetsenko. But communist Gleza is not accustomed to striking a bargain with his conscience for the sake of personal advantages. And that is why he wrote KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. This position of the communist in the apartment story deserves respect. And here the actions which engendered this story of responsible officers, it is believed, should receive an evaluation based on principle.

Military Sanatorium Abuses Corrected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 86 p 2

[Unattributed follow-up article: "Audit"]

[Text] A critical article by Colonel A. Yurkin was published under this heading ["Audit"] on 27 September. As reported to the editors by the chief of the political department of the Moscow Air Defense District's rear area, Major General V. Kardash, it was discussed at an expanded session of the party buro of the Sukhumi military sanatorium, in the party organization of the district's military medical service, and at a conference in the political department of the district rear area with the invitation of the secretaries of party organizations and the chiefs of departments and services.

It was noted that as a result of the weakening of indoctrinational work and monitoring on the part of the leadership and the political department of the district's rear area, individual responsible officers of the military medical service and the Sukhumi military sanatorium accomplished their assigned duties in an unconscientious manner and exploited their official position.

The former chief of the district's military medical service, Major General of Medical Service S. Vartanov, committed errors in the selection and indoctrination of personnel and transferred trust in many important questions to secondary persons. This created conditions for various abuses and official violations.

For the abuse of his official position the chief accountant of the military medical service, communist P. Samsonov, received a strict reprimand with an entry in his record card. Underpayment for feeding during the period of conducting the audit was recovered from him.

A party and administrative investigation is being conducted concerning violations committed by the chief of the sanatorium's KEO [billeting section], A. Piriyeu.

The chief of the Sukhumi military sanatorium, Colonel of Medical Service Sh. Mikava, received a strict reprimand.

For poor political-indoctrinational work on the prevention of abuses of official position by responsible officials, the deputy chief of the sanatorium for political affairs, Lieutenant Colonel A. Marchukov, received a reprimand.

Other officials were also held administratively answerable.

The editors also received a reply from the garrison judge advocate, Lieutenant Colonel of Justice A. Grishin. He reported that in connection with the newspaper's article a prosecutor's inspection was conducted. The fact that A. Piriyeu combined two posts without properly making it official was completely confirmed. Money in the sum of 2,511 rubles 48 kopecks was transferred by him to the income of the state.

Construction Innovation Work Smoothed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Nov 86 p 2

[Article by Maj Gen M. Simakov, first deputy chief of the political directorate, military construction units: "When there is No Agreement"]

[Text] Published under this heading ["When there is No Agreement"] on 13 September was the remark that the introduction of a valuable innovation at military enterprises and construction sites is being impeded due to interdepartmental red tape and the supervisors responsible for this occupied the position of detached onlookers.

The newspaper's article was examined in the political directorate of military construction units and discussed in the party committee of the directorate of the Deputy Soviet Minister of Defense for Construction and Billeting of Troops.

The political directorate of military construction units required that the political organs and party committees of the main and central military construction directorates of the Soviet Ministry of Defense intensify party influence on the accomplishment of plans for the introduction of scientific and technical achievements and new equipment in construction practice and monitor more strictly the solution of these problems locally.

At a session of the party committee the attention of the chief of the Technical Directorate for Capital Construction of the Soviet Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant General G. Domanin, was directed toward insufficient persistence on his part when accomplishing the assignment of the Soviet Deputy Minister of Defense for Construction and Billeting of Troops. This did not permit ensuring the manufacturing and introduction into practice of an electropulse unit which is intended for the effective destruction of substandard ferroconcrete. He has been assigned personal monitoring of the industrial testing and introduction of the device in 1987.

The decisions of the corresponding party committees strictly pointed out to CPSU members the chief engineer of the Glavstroyprom [Main Directorate for the Production of Construction Parts and Structural Elements] of the Soviet Ministry of Defense, Colonel L. Konovalov, the chief of department of the same directorate, Colonel A. Botin, and the chief engineer of the Main Military Construction Directorate, Colonel Yu. Ovchinnikov and to responsible executives for the unit Colonels G. Shishkin and A. Shapurov and Lieutenant Colonel N. Bashlykov the red tape which they have displayed.

The political directorate of the military construction units has assumed the monitoring of the times for the completion as a unit and manufacture of the electropulse unit.

Improper Use of Soldiers Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Nov 86 p 2

[Article by Col G. Ivanov: "To 'Seasonal Work'"]

[Text] "Dear editors. We request that you look into a situation which has developed in our surface-to-air missile subunit. The subunit commander, Captain N. Sosnovskiy, often sends soldiers to work in civilian organizations. Several times groups of servicemen travelled out to unload meat from freight cars to the local meat combine. And on order of the commander, being located outside the unit area, for several months Private T. Nurmatov worked on a house of a private person. For this affects the honor and dignity of the serviceman...."

(From a letter to the editors).

I began the check of this letter with a clearing up of the fact connected with Private T. Nurmatov. Already very scandalous, it seemed to me to be unusual. I asked the soldier right off: was it like this?

Private T. Nurmatov: Yes, it was. One day Captain Sosnovskiy summoned me and said: "Zhigulis" are parked next to the traffic regulating point. Go, sit down, and travel to the place where they carry you and do what they tell you to."

They brought me to a private home and gave me civilian clothing. I also lived here for about two months. I watered vegetables in the kitchen garden from drainage ditches, cut corn, and looked after the livestock--this was several cows and more than 20 sheep. Sometimes I pastured the sheep in a meadow. I helped to gather vegetables and load them on a vehicle for sale at the market. I got up at 0700 hours and worked until evening.

In general, they treated me well in the house, but thoughts constantly overpowered me that this was not why they called me up to the army.

What occurred with Private Nurmatov emerges so far outside the framework of our notion of the life, activity, and moral atmosphere of a military collective that, as they say, it can hardly be believed. How could this happen? What stimulated the subunit commander to send his subordinate to be one of the "workers?"

Captain N. Sosnovskiy: We must perform much repair work in the subunit. Someone advised me to turn to the rayon consumers' society. And that is what I did. But there they laid down a condition: give us working hands, they said. For Nurmatov's work I received for the subunit's needs approximately half a ton of cement, several boxes of Dutch tile, window frames, metal corners, and scrap boards. This made it possible to line the stove with the tiles, repair the ceiling, replace doors....

You listen to the officer and you wonder: he looks at the situation only through the eyes of some smart business executive and not once did he look at it from positions of a communist and commander. Never entering his head was the thought expressed in the letter that seasonal work and work on the farm of a private person in particular abase the honor and dignity of the Soviet serviceman.

Travel for earnings became a component part of the personnel's life in the subunit. For example, Privates O. Khodzhanepesov and T. Nurmatov worked for 10 days in a civilian construction organization. Several times, groups of 10 or more servicemen were sent to the meat combine, soldiers often work on a nearby kolkhoz.... What do the responsible officers of higher echelons think about the situation which has been created here? How do they evaluate the actions of Captain Sosnovskiy?

Major Yu. Denisov: Of course, Sosnovskiy is proceeding incorrectly and is violating strict and clear instructions on the organization of training and the prohibition of the separation of personnel from lessons. This will be pointed out to him. But he really acted in the interests of the subunit's good order and without personal profit....

I informed Colonel E. Khorkov of the letter to the editors and of Captain Sosnovskiy's improper actions. After sufficient time had passed (more than a month)

for the study of the abnormal situation in the subunit, I inquired as to what measures had been adopted.

Colonel E. Khorkov: I issued instructions to investigate whether Nurmatov was actually sent to earn money. If it is confirmed, we will hold Sosnovskiy answerable. But I can say now that of the money earned by the servicemen, nothing stuck to Captain Sosnovskiy's hands; therefore, we will not adopt any measures of influence on him. What is to be done--we ourselves require that they make things comfortable and repair, and then some commanders must also obtain building materials because those which arrive in accordance with planned supply are insufficient.

The rather strange position of officers Denisov and Khorkov causes bewilderment. They separate the men from their main business--combat and political training--and the senior officers find some "mitigating" circumstances. It is believed that it is precisely on the soil of undemandingness and connivance, which is a unique encouragement for such actions, that this abnormal phenomenon--sending soldiers "to earn money"--sprang up. For, besides the fact that the separation of people from lessons inflicts harm on the matter of combat training, which is impermissible by itself, immeasurably greater harm is inflicted on the moral upbringing of the men by this. It is hardly necessary to explain this truth. It was thought that, having received such an alarming signal, comrades Khorkov and Denisov will sound the alarm full blast, as they say. But no. A month and a half was not enough for them to look into this scandalous disgrace.

And now, about those circumstances which allegedly forced Captain Sosnovskiy to earn building materials. In the unit directorate Lieutenant Colonel A. Belyavskiy informed the correspondent that the materials necessary for planned current repairs were ordered for the subunit from the unit warehouse. And one more piece of information obtained in the rayon billeting unit. All building materials for repair were issued to the subunit in accordance with the requisition.

The question arises: just what forced Captain Sosnovskiy to send his subordinates to paid work? And do the senior comrades have grounds to speak of the disinterestedness of the subunit commander?

Well, and just who is that person who solicited a gratuitous work force, exploiting his official position for these purposes? It is the chairman of the governing board of the rayon consumers' society, deputy of the rayon soviet, and member of the rayon party committee. "Now I understood," he says, "what we did that was bad. And when Captain Sosnovskiy appealed for building materials, I went and asked for his assistance for my father on the farm...."

Such psychology here: "You help me and I'll help you." Alien to the spirit of our time and incompatible with the requirements of our party for the honest and pure appearance of the party member.

Results of Letters to Editors Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "As Time Requires"]

[Text] The editors' mail of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reflects extremely accurately the processes occurring now in the life of the Armed Forces and our entire society. The freshening of the moral atmosphere clearly affects the frankness and openness of the letters to the editors, the acuteness and scale of formulation of problems by our readers, and the reaction which many articles cause. Here is a typical example.

On 15 October the newspaper published a letter from Private A. Khvorost, "It Is Necessary to Begin from the Beginning." Telling about the difficulties of the first period of service, the author comes to a substantiated conclusion: young soldiers would master soldierly matters more successfully if primary military training were conducted more effectively. This letter and the commentary to it by responsible officers who are responsible for the training of the youth for service in the Armed Forces caused the broad response of the readers. Letters from various regions of the country continue to reach the editors. The military commissar of the Azerbaijan SSR, Major General A. Kasimov, notes, for example, that the shortcomings discussed in the article occur in many of the republic's educational institutions. The military commissariat of Azerbaijan recommended to all rayon and city military commissariats that they discuss the newspaper article together with personnel of the organs of popular education and determine specific measures directed toward raising the quality of primary military training. Major General A. Kasimov also reports that he turned to the ministers of education and higher and secondary specialized education and to the chairman of the republic's State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education with the proposal that they issue instructions to discuss this material at sessions of methodological commissions in all secondary schools, vocational and technical schools, and secondary specialized educational institutions.

Others of our readers also sent reflective letters on ways to improve the preparation of the youth for military service. The responses will form the basis for future articles on this important subject.

A considerable part of the editors' mail is made up of letters which disclose shortcomings in combat and political training, the everyday support of the troops, the organization of leisure time, and so forth. Each such signal becomes a subject for attentive study. Some letters are published, while others are the occasion for a correspondent's trip to a unit or subunit and the subsequent preparation of newspaper material. It should be said that the reaction to the newspaper's critical articles also became more effective and businesslike, and the approach to those who are subjected to criticism--more exacting.

On 20 August KRASNAYA ZVEZDA published a critical article by Lieutenant Colonel M. Ziyeminsh, "Protracted Story," which discussed a recent conflict which arose in a department of the Military Medicine Faculty with the Kuybyshev Medical Institute imeni D. I. Ulyanov. In the reply received by the editors which was signed by the chief of the Central Military Medical Directorate, Colonel General of Medical Service F. Komarov, it is reported that the facts presented in the

newspaper were confirmed. The department head, Colonel of Medical Service V. Polyarush, did not always organize interrelationships in the collective on a businesslike, official basis and permitted the violation of moral and ethical standards. The command of the faculty, knowing of the abnormal situation in the department, did not adopt measures for its normalization. The Deputy Soviet Minister of Defense and Chief of the Rear of the Soviet Armed Forces, Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Kurkotkin, warned the head of the faculty, Major General of Medical Service N. Osipov, of incomplete official compliance, relieved Colonel of Medical Service V. Polyarush of the post which he occupied, and he will be assigned with a demotion.

Measures were adopted to strengthen a healthy moral atmosphere in the department.

The editors' mail also contains letters whose authors express disagreement with some of the newspaper's critical articles. Sometimes, this stimulates returning again to the subject which has been raised and examining more thoroughly the situation and events which disturb people. Thus, in the article "Rumors and Facts" which was published on 13 April, one-sidedness was permitted in the analysis of an acute situation and in evaluating the position and actions of Major Yu. Danigevich. His valid claims and remarks were not reflected. As was learned, measures were undertaken on the newspaper article without proper objectivity, which was reported to the editors from the Air Force of the Moscow Military District (published this 23 July). Now the measures of punishment along party and official lines regarding Comrade Yu. Danigevich have been rescinded as unsubstantiated. The persons who committed unobjectivity have been made answerable.

Rural Primary Military Training Improved

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Nov 86 p 2

[Unattributed follow-up article: "Who Will Help the Draftees?"]

[Text] The critical report by Major A. Borovkov was published under this heading ["Who Will Help the Draftees?"] on 22 July. It told of shortcomings in the training of the youth for military service in the "Gigant" sovkhos of Salskiy Rayon, Rostov Oblast. In the replies received by the editors from the ispolkom of the Salskiy Rayon Soviet of Peoples' Deputies and the Rostov Oblast DOSAAF committee it is reported that the facts presented in the article are acknowledged as correct.

The chairman of the ispolkom of the Salskiy Rayon Soviet of Peoples' Deputies, V. Storozhuk, reports that according to the results of a check the lack of proper attention to the creation of a training-material base for primary military training in the village schools was strictly pointed out to the chairman of the Gigant village Soviet, A. Kazakov, and to the chief of the rayon consumer's society, V. Filatov. The poor monitoring of the work of the rayon department of popular education and the DOSAAF gorkom in the training of the youth for service in the Armed Forces was also pointed out to the deputy chairman of the rayispolkom, N. Krasiy.

To improve mass defense work in the village the chairman of the Rostov DOSAAF obkom, I. Kondratov, informs the editors that in October the construction of a 50-meter shooting gallery was begun here and premises have been allotted for the work of military-technical study groups. Three shooting and two military-technical sections have been created in which more than 100 people are united. The question of opening a sports aviation club in the village is being decided.

Post Exchange Service Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Nov 86 p 4

[Article by Col A. Soldatov, under the "Letter to the Editor" rubric: "According to an Approved List..."]

[Text] I still remember the note, "Come in for your Purchase," which was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in 1975. It discussed one self-service department store where the sales clerks are very attentive to the customers and where progressive forms of trade are employed. I was especially won over by the lines: "And now our 'order desk' was also enlarged with a grocery department...." Well, isn't this a blessing for the officer! He returned, let us say, from temporary duty and his order, which had been received by telephone, is already waiting.

Having arrived recently to serve in the Red Banner Carpathian Military District, I recalled the newspaper article when I saw the sign at the self-service department store, "Order desk. Orders taken only by telephone...." True, the last sentence put me on guard, "Entrance prohibited for outsiders." But what difference does what is on the sign make, especially as warrant officers [praporshchik] and other people appeared in its doors every now and then....

I repeatedly caught myself thinking about using the services of the personnel at the self-service department store. But at first there was no such need.

But then quite recently, returning from temporary duty, I decided to use the "order desk." I leafed through the pages of the "List of Subscribers of the Telephone Station," but I did not find the needed number. I got the nerve to phone the store director.

I introduced myself. I courteously ask him for the required number. However, Aleksey Andreyevich Pugachev, apparently not catching my name, shouted:

"You're not supposed to phone there! Go to a general food department!"

"I have reasons," I said, confused.

"You have no reasons!" Aleksey Andreyevich cut me off. "We service only in accordance with an approved list...."

I did not understand what this list is or who prepares and approves it. And who are the people who enjoy such a privilege which is encoded as the "order desk?" For if the sign is hung where it can be seen by people then, reasoning logically, every serviceman can appear there.

Not only I, but also other officers of the headquarters and directorates of the district recently recalled the old article in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. For it was our self-service department store which was reported on in it. Conversation turned to it at party meetings, too. However, the conversations hung poised in mid air.

Junior Commander Selection Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Nov 86 p 2

[Articles by Maj V. Kozhokhin; and Col G. Kochurov, secretary, party committee, Main Personnel Directorate, USSR Ministry of Defense, candidate of military sciences, published under general heading: "Our Common Concern"]

[Text] On 11 October, a selection of materials, "How Future Sergeants Are Selected," was published under the heading, "The Problem Requires Solution." It discussed the fact that in some military commissariats the selection of draftees for training units is accomplished in a low-quality manner, as a result of which not all of them become good junior commanders.

The article caused numerous responses from readers. Noting the urgency of the problem which had been touched upon, they share experiences and introduce specific suggestions which are directed toward the improvement of the system for training junior commanders. In publishing the first collection of responses, the editors plan to continue the conversation which was begun.

Who Is Responsible for the Rejects?

The problem posed by the authors of the article, "How Future Sergeants Are Selected," disturbs many officers, which can be judged from my own experience. I often had to receive young sergeants who clearly were not ready to perform their functional duties.

Here are some fresh examples. Sergeant S. Slobodskov and Junior Sergeant Yu. Sboyshchikov came to us from the training subunit. Both had a higher education. It would appear, what else is needed? But they both clearly "did not get enough" in their specialties. In general intelligent people, educated, but here they did not make missilemen-specialists out of them.

Private N. Abdugaparov came to us from the same training subunit. He was so poorly trained that they did not even award him the rank of sergeant there. The question arises, what did he do in the training subunit? Administrative work? At least Abdugaparov states that there he was often occupied with this at the expense of training. Perhaps in a combat subunit they would receive more knowledge as a specialist if months of service had not been lost.

In the training subunits, there is also the tendency toward striving to overstate the grades of their graduates. Thus, Sergeant Slobodskov had only excellent grades, including for physical training. But on a check he could not even once

do a pull-up with a turn on the horizontal bar. The question arises, just how will such a sergeant train subordinates? His grades were also overstated in other subjects of instruction. In short, all this is rejects in work, and who is responsible for them?

Considering the low level of training of some graduates (and this affects the manning of sergeant posts--there is no one to assign) we are forced to train junior commanders ourselves. Thus, launcher crew member Private A. Zayarchenko mastered not only his own specialty well in half a year, but also allied specialties. In addition, we noted in him commander and volitional qualities, initiative, and organizer abilities. He was soon appointed chief of section of a launcher section and awarded the military rank of junior sergeant. And he is coping with his duties successfully. This, of course, is a forced measure; it does not solve the problem. And it just must be solved.

Major V. Kozhokhin

And if we Conduct an Experiment

I had to be engaged in the training and indoctrination of future sergeants for about eight years--first in a regimental school and then in a training unit. Later, being a regimental commander, I had to do much work with sergeants in accordance with my service duty, too.

In reflecting on the problem of selection for training subunits, I come to the conclusion that the former system in which the selection of future sergeants is undertaken not by the military commissariats but by the commanders of subunits directly in the units was more effective. I do not want to cast a shadow on the personnel of the military commissariats--I have no grounds to reproach them for insufficient competence or a lack of conscientiousness in the selection of draftees for training subunits. But, as they say, even with all the desire to perform this task with high quality it is extremely difficult for them. And here is why.

Now the majority of the youths are called up to the army immediately upon completion of secondary or vocational school, that is, the selection of future sergeants is conducted basically in educational institutions. And how can a draftee show himself under these conditions? Education--the same for all, level of physical preparedness--also approximately the same. Then according to what qualities can an officer of a military commissariat or military instructor determine possible sergeant candidates?

It is a different matter in the troop subunit. From the very first days, as soon as the recruits put on the uniform and stand in formation, differences between them are easily noted. The uniform had not even begun to settle down, and it could already be seen that one is more dexterous and nimbler and after a week or two you look and his military bearing has appeared and he turns out to be better than the others. And if the commander also places the newcomers under those conditions where commander qualities should be displayed (he will assign some task, appoint a group or team leader, and so forth), it is quite simple to ascertain who has command inclinations and who does not possess them. Of course, errors are possible here, too, but the probability of them--of this I am deeply

convinced--is considerably less. Especially if, in addition, the company or battery commander who selects the young soldiers for the training subunit knows that they will return to him as sergeants. I believe that this circumstance will force the officer to approach the selection of candidates for training subunits thoughtfully and exactly.

In short, in my opinion such a selection system will further a rise in the quality of training of junior commanders.

I foresee objections connected, in particular, with questions of an economic nature: the innovation, they say, will entail excess expenditures for shipments since the draftees first must be sent to the units and, after a time, the people must be sent to the training subunits. Yes, such expenses will increase. Well, and if we count the losses which we will bear because, having kept the soldier in a training subunit for several months, we do not obtain the needed final result? Probably, it is not difficult for competent specialists who are occupied with these questions to calculate such expenditures and compare them with possible expenditures on shipments.

In the country, including in the Armed Forces, a restructuring is under way which is aimed at increasing the efficiency of labor in all spheres of activity and the attainment of the necessary final result. A rise in the quality of training of the most numerous category of commanders--the sergeants--is a large-scale and important task. And it should be accomplished more boldly. Is it possible to test such a system of selecting candidates for training units on the basis of one of the military districts as an experiment? Military scientists--sociologists and psychologists--can also be involved in its conduct and evaluation of results along with commanders and specialists.

I believe the results of such an experiment will serve as a convincing basis for specific conclusions.

Colonel G. Kochurov, secretary of the party committee, Main Personnel Directorate, Soviet Ministry of Defense, candidate of military sciences

Party Influences Military Press

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Dec 86 p 2

[Unattributed follow-up article: "Without Firm Support"]

[Text] An article was published under this heading ["Without Firm Support"] on 11 October which discussed the necessity to improve party leadership of the press in the Red Banner Volga Military District.

Member of the military council and chief of the district's political directorate, Major General V. Filippov, reported: to eliminate the shortcomings noted in the article, "Without Firm Support," the political directorate plans measures to render daily assistance to the district newspaper in the interests of reinforcing the effectiveness of its articles and authority. At a session of the

newspaper's editorial board and a party meeting of the editors' communists (and the member of the military council and chief of the district's political directorate participated in their work--ed.) practical conclusions were drawn from the critical remarks contained in the article printed by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. In particular, measures were planned to reinforce the monitoring of the timely dispatch of inquiries on articles of the district newspaper and the timely receipt of replies from units, military educational institutions, and facilities. Also envisioned was the quarterly presentation of an analysis of responses concerning measures adopted in accordance with the newspaper's articles to the military council and political directorate of the district.

It was recommended to sections of the editors that they systematically return to the published materials and see that the shortcomings which were noted are effectively eliminated and that leading experience is introduced into practice. For this purpose, the editors together with personnel of the political directorate will accomplish on-the-spot checks.

Long-range and monthly planning of the preparation of materials concerning the course of restructuring the style of activity of commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations in work with people was concretely defined. Introduced for this purpose were the headings: "From the Practice of the Restructuring of Ideological Work," "Restructuring: the Communist's Position," "To Meet the 20th Komsomol Congress: With a Course for Restructuring," "Departments of Social Sciences: Ways for Restructuring," and others. More attention will be paid by the newspaper to the propagandizing of leading experience in combat and political training and illuminating the problems of strengthening military discipline and rallying the multinational troop collectives.

It is planned to examine measures for the further improvement of party leadership of the press at a session of the district's military council. The primary party organization of the editors has been transferred for party accounting from the political department of the garrison's special units to the political department of the headquarters and directorates of the district.

Pilot Training Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 86 p 2

[Article by Col V. Chirkov, 1st class military pilot under the "Reader Poses a Question" rubric: "It is Time to Give Full Play to Initiative"]

[Text] In trying to restructure our work, we aviators encounter many difficulties--what is new is introduced into the organization of combat training very slowly, and I and other commanders spend unjustifiably much time on secondary matters in our activity. At times, virtually nothing of it remains for personal training.

For example, much is now being done to train highly rated aerial fighters. Requirements for the level of their knowledge are growing with an increase in rating qualifications. However, these requirements are subjective to a great extent and depend on the level of training of the examiners themselves and their notion of what the one being tested should know and how he should know it.

Alas, there are no criteria which clearly determine the aviators' level of theoretical training. Therefore, it is impossible to determine in a practical manner the actual growth in knowledge. In giving tests, be it for a first-class or third-class rating, the examiner specialists can ask the pilot about anything they want. This, of course, furthers the expansion of their horizon. But nevertheless, in my opinion, the minimum knowledge should be determined for each discipline which, having deeply mastered, the officer would know that he had attained the level of a certain class and would see in perspective what he still must do. Then there would be no "excess" lessons and the commander would free training time for the main tasks of combat training. Therefore, I think that the clear demarcation of the requirements for the lessons of each class of pilots with scientifically substantiated programs in each specialty will serve as a means to accelerate and raise the quality of combat training.

One more reserve. The program of command training is the same for all officers regardless of the level of their skill and time of service after their completion of military school. Therefore, those who completed schools both a year and 10 years ago listen to the same lectures, participate in the very same seminars, and so forth. But isn't it better to conduct joint lessons only on key questions and in the remainder give more independence to unit and subunit commanders in planning combat training and the selection of subject matter? Or to evaluate our work from its final result: quality of mastery of subjects planned for the end of each period of instruction and not from accounting? In this case, I believe, individual officers can be entrusted to work more in accordance with an individual plan, redistributing the time between various disciplines. As a result, the return from such a "commander's minute" which is in short supply will be increased for personal improvement and the higher quality performance of functional duties.

At times, the time which we need to deepen knowledge is mercilessly taken away by paperwork. For example, the mandatory writing of various lesson plans. Very much time is spent on copying propositions from various sources, and we do not succeed in studying profoundly the subject itself. It seems to me that it is better to draw up only a summary response in the lesson plan for a question being studied. For the main thing is the degree of assimilation of the subject being studied and the ability to present the material freely, and not the filling of pages for "tick marks."

Or let us refer to the problem of using simulators. Are the "flights" on them always accomplished on a high professional and methodological level? With hand on heart we admit--no. They are conducted seldom and formally. For each pilot must accomplish the mandatory norm of hours of accrued flying time and, at the same time, does not have the right to be absent from lessons or distracted from official matters. That's the way it is, we drill if only to record the hours.

It should be said directly: with the existing loading of the command personnel of the subunits and units it is difficult to achieve genuine quality of drills. I can see a way out--to create organizational groups for flight supervision on the simulator consisting of a pilot, navigator, and engineer--high-class professionals who have been relieved from flying because of health or are already in the reserve. In this way we will achieve the conduct of lessons in accordance with the very same procedure with high quality, we will achieve regularity in making known all changes and additions to instructions in flight operations, and

we will free time for subunit commanders for preparation for flights and personal improvement. Through the higher quality in the conduct of flights on the simulator we can also reduce the number of some flights on the airplane and thereby achieve a savings in the service life of the equipment and save fuel.

The words about restructuring our work will remain words if we do not back them up with deeds and a bold search. But for the present we stump for the usual very timidly. Alas, we introduce changes to the corresponding guidance documents and instructions very, very slowly.

Perhaps I have expressed controversial thoughts. But the problem of how to give greater play to initiative and speed up the introduction of what is new must be solved immediately. This is the order of the time.

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CSO: 1801/87

GROUND FORCES

DISCUSSION OF 130-MM GUN, M-46

Moscow VOYENNYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 11, Nov 86 p 44

[Article by Col (Res) V. Knyazkov, published under the rubric "Talks with Inductees": "The M-46 130-mm Gun"]

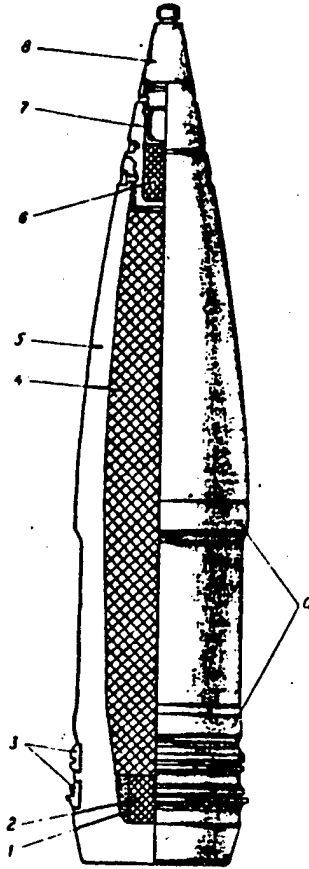
[Text] The cannon is the artillery gun most adapted for hitting important targets far from the forward edge of the battle area.

Page 4 of the cover shows a picture of the 130-mm M-46 cannon. Even the uninitiated would say that this is a very powerful artillery system shown here. The length of its barrel with the muzzle brake is 7,600 mm.

Of course, the readers are generally familiar with the firing process. Picture mentally what takes place when the firing pin hits the primer cup. The force of the fire in thousandths of a second turns the 13-kg propellant powder charge located in the closed chamber capacity into a gaseous state. The powder gases accelerate with tremendous force and simultaneously twist the projectile around the bore rifling, making it rotate relative to the longitudinal axis; this gives it a stable flight. Departing with a muzzle velocity of 930 meters per second, the 33.4-kg projectile will hit a target at a distance of up to 27,150 meters. If you consider that the gun's rate of fire is 7-8 rounds per minute, one may justifiably claim that it possesses excellent fire capabilities.

The M-46 is primarily designed for combating enemy artillery and mortars, for neutralizing his personnel and various fire weapons in concentration areas, for destroying permanent earth defense works and other similar field fortifications, and for bombarding railway junctions and headquarters. In addition, it can enter into single combat with heavy tanks and self-propelled guns.

The gun's ammunition load includes high-explosive (HE) fragmentation and armor-piercing tracer projectiles. The latter, needless to say, are used against armored vehicles. Direct firing from an open fire position is the most effective (incidentally, the point blank range with a target height of up to 2 meters is 1,170 meters).



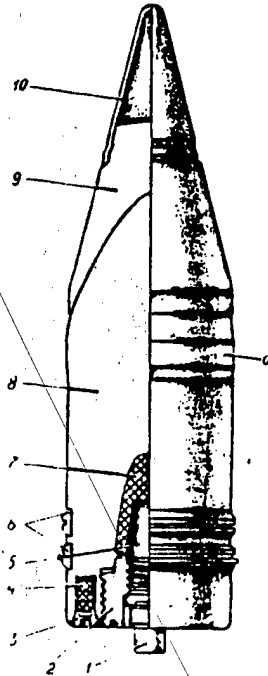
130-mm High-Explosive Shell

1-alloy of paraffin and ceresine; 2-smoke and flash intensifier charge; 3-rotating bands; 4-TNT explosive charge; 5-body; 6-exploder; 7-tapered clamping sleeve; 8-fuze.

The HE fragmentation shells are used more extensively, since they hit the target both with lethal fragments and the force of the explosion. Let us note that in artillery it is customary to call all fragmentation and HE fragmentation projectiles shells.

When the fuze is set for fragmentation action (cap is unscrewed), the shell explodes instantly as soon as it strikes an obstacle: the fine metallic membrane is destroyed, the firing pin hits the igniter set cap, followed by an explosion.

If the cap is screwed on (the command "High-explosive Fuze!" has been executed), the shell will explode only after penetrating somewhat into the obstacle. A considerable amount of dirt is thrown out; trenches, dugouts, and shelters are destroyed. When firing on hardened permanent defense works in the course of combat operations, the fuze is set for delayed action.



130-mm Armor-Piercing Projectile with Tracer

1-tracer nut; 2-screwed base; 3-nut; 4-tracer; 5-fuze; 6-rotating band; 7-explosive charge; 8-body; 9-armor-piercing cap; a-positioning bands.

...At the gun position the command was heard: "Fire a shell against the infantry! Time-delay fuze!" Had the commander made a mistake? No. The point is that in combat the enemy infantry will strive to make maximum use of terrain folds as natural cover (ravines, reverse slopes of hills, low vertical walls, ditches, and the like), and the gun can destroy the infantry by ricochet fire.

In this case, the shell flies a flat trajectory, impacts on the ground at the target, and ricochets. Since the fuze was set on "Z" [time-delay], it explodes only at a relatively low height. A large number of fragments are formed, which shower the enemy like a deadly rain.

The M-46 uses a quick-firing separate-loading artillery round. Since it is quite heavy (59.1 kg), it is purposely divided into two roughly equal parts. First the projectile with fuze is rammed into the bore, then the casing with the charge and igniter.

Let us note the most important of the other combat characteristics. The vertical elevation is from -2.5 to +45 degrees. The total traverse is 50 degrees. As we see, the gun possesses good capabilities to change the direction and range of firing within quite broad limits from one position, without turning and setting up the gun again.

The readiness of the M-46 for combat or moving is sufficiently high. By way of illustration, a training crew brings the gun from travelling to combat configuration and back in 3-4 minutes. The organic AT-S (medium artillery tractor) easily transports the 8,450-kg gun over various roads and in a variety of geographic regions. In any event, the speed of the gun plus prime mover and limber can reach 50 km per hour on the highway. However, under combat conditions, asphalt under the wheels is the exception rather than the rule. It is also necessary to move over dirt roads, and often off-road as well. Therefore, the parameters of the running gear of the prime mover and the gun are such that the gun plus prime mover are capable of moving off-road at a speed up to 10-20 km per hour.

Now let us go over the operating principles of the gun. We will name its basic parts and point out their function and, if necessary, design peculiarities.

The gun has a monobloc barrel with a rifled bore. The horizontal sliding wedge breech-block opening to the right is designed for locking the bore and firing. Of course, the wedge is a figurative comparison and is not similar to the tool used to split large logs. In essence, it is a massive prism with an imperceptible slant of the forward edge. When the breech-block is in the far left position, this is equivalent to a wedge weighing several dozen kilograms being driven into the breech ring. It securely closes the bore and absorbs the powerful impact of the powder gases.

The cradle is a cast cylindrical collar which serves to guide barrel movement during recoil and counterrecoil. The idea of a so-called carriage with recoil has been realized by using recoil mechanisms consisting of a buffer and recuperator. They perform a three in one task. At the moment of firing, they absorb a blow of tremendous force, thereby preventing it from affecting the carriage, firmly secured in the trench. After the firing, they return the barrel to the original position. These devices also hold the barrel at all possible angles of fire.

The saddle is the base of the tipping part of the gun, and the trail is the base of its rotating part. Using elevating and traversing gears, the handwheels of which are situated to the left of the breech ring, the crew lays the gun in the vertical and horizontal planes.

The purpose of the equilibrator is obvious--it balances the tipping part of the gun relative to the cradle trunnion and makes the job easier for the gunner on the elevating gear.

The usual components of the gun also include the trail, shield, wheeled running gear with suspension, and the muzzle brake.

In addition, the designers have provided jacks which the crew uses to raise the trail to the limber or to lower it. A portable winch attached to the right trail is turned on when preparing the gun for a move after the crew disconnects the barrel from the buffer and the recuperator from the cradle. The barrel is drawn back to the stops located on the trail and secured there.

Thus, in the travelling position the weight of the gun is evenly distributed over the four wheel supports of the rear and front running gear. Another important thing is that the length of the free end of the barrel is shortened; therefore, the dynamic loads on it, which are inevitable when transporting the gun, are substantially reduced. When converting the gun from the travelling to the firing position, all these operations are performed in reverse order: the winch moves the barrel forward; after it is secured, the gun is ready for firing.

Experts say that it is possible to transport the M-46 without moving the barrel to the travelling position, but only over short distances and at a speed not exceeding 5 km per hour.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

U.S. LIBYA RAID DISCUSSED

Moscow VESTNIK PROTIVOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY in Russian No 10, Oct 86 pp 82-85

[Article by A. Pavlov: "U.S. Air Operations in the Aggression Against Libya"; from materials in the foreign press]

[Text] The United States' marauding attack against Libya this April again exposed the dangerous nature of Washington's "neoglobal" policy which is based on the concept of the dictation of force.

Altogether since 1981 the United States organized military maneuvers near Libyan shores 18 times. Just how were plans for military brigandage against Libya born and military operations accomplished with the involvement of the U.S. Navy and Air Force?

According to a report by a representative of the CIA to the magazine TIME, several plans were worked out. The corrected plan, which received the name "Prairie Fire," was presented to Reagan on 14 March. The plan was approved.

By noon on 23 March three U.S. aircraft carriers ("America," "Saratoga," "Coral Sea") stood north of the entrance to the gulf. At night, U.S. airplanes began to patrol along the "line of death" (Fig. 1). At 1300 hours on the following day a detachment of three ships began to advance into the gulf. The detachment included a destroyer, missile carrier, and the helicopter carrier "Ticonderoga." In the air were 100 airplanes which were at different altitudes and were disposed in circles which were called "Rings of Steel." Located at the highest point were E-2C Hawkeye aircraft and lower were EA-6B Prowlers which were intended for the detection and jamming of radar and radio equipment. Submarines of the "Los Angeles" class were submerged.

Reagan announced the conclusion of the exercise on 27 March. Its result was three sunken Libyan vessels and an attempt to destroy a radar in the area of the city of Surt by HARM guided missiles from A-7E attack aircraft. But what is most important, as the magazine TIME notes, the majority of the Arab states condemned the United States for its aggressiveness. Provocative maneuvers near Libyan shores ended, but ships of the Sixth Fleet, as was announced by Washington, remain in the Southern Mediterranean. Thus, tension is preserved.

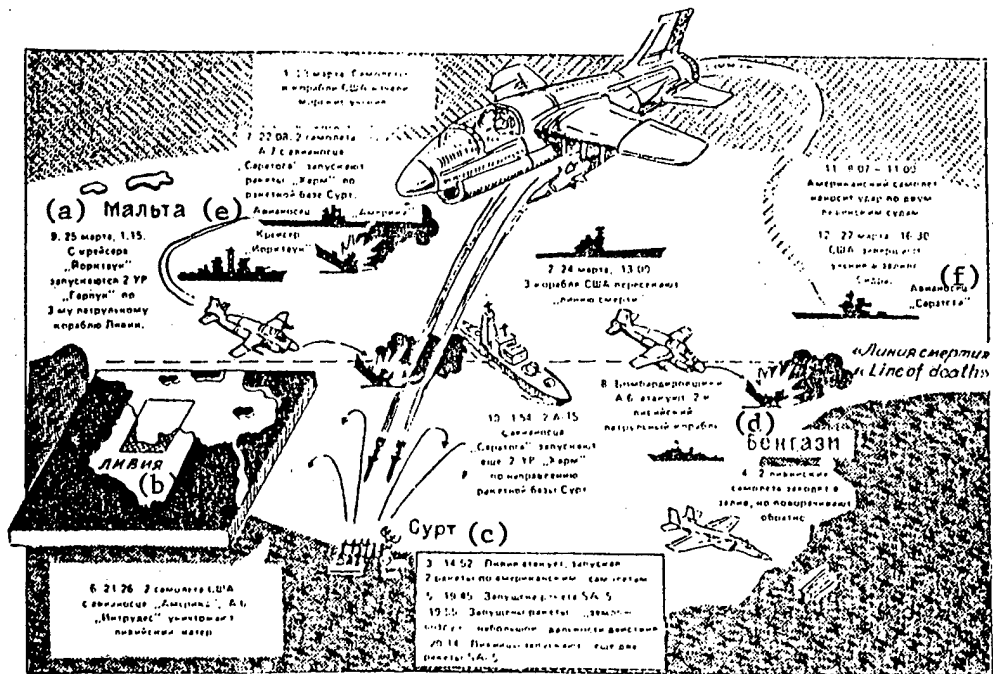


Figure 1.

Key:

1. 23 March. U.S. airplanes and ships began naval exercise.
 2. 24 March. 1300 hours. 3 U.S. ships cross the "line of death."
 3. 1452 hours. Libya attacks, launches 2 missiles at American airplanes.
 4. 2 Libyan airplanes enter the gulf but turn back.
 5. 1945 hours. SA-5 missile launched; 1955 hours short-range surface-to-air missiles launched; 2014 hours Libyans launch 2 more SA-5 missiles.
 6. 2126 hours. 2 U.S. airplanes from the carrier "America," A-6 Intruders, destroy Libyan boat.
 7. 2208 hours. 2 A-7 aircraft from the carrier "Saratoga" launch HARM missiles at Surt missile base.
 8. A-6 bombers attack second Libyan patrol ship.
 9. 25 March. 0115 hours. Cruiser "Yorktown" launches 2 Harpoon guided missiles at third Libyan patrol ship.
 10. 0154 hours. 2 A-15's from the carrier "Saratoga" launch 2 more HARM guided missiles in the direction of the Surt missile base.
 11. 0807-1100 hours. American airplane launches strike at 2 Libyan ships.
 12. 27 March. 1630 hours. United States concludes exercises in the Gulf of Sidra.
- a. Malta
b. Libya
c. Surt
d. Benghazi
e. Carrier "America," cruiser "Yorktown"
f. Carrier "Saratoga"

The next operation on the recommendation of the Pentagon received the name "Canyon Eldorado." Preparation of the strike was begun a week prior to the attack, 7 April. Two services of the armed forces selected strike objectives and determined the forces with which the strike should be launched. The final decision concerning the days and aviation forces to be used was made two to three days prior to the attack. In the words of one highly placed military representative, "Carrier aircraft could completely destroy all Libyan targets simultaneously; however, they did not have enough of some advantages." He continued: "In the majority of the versions for the launching of the strikes it was planned to employ F-111F's from Great Britain." The Prime Minister of Great Britain, M. Thatcher, gave permission for operations of the F-111F, KC-10, and KC-135 aircraft from the territory of her country.

The plan of operations envisioned the launching of strikes at five targets. Camp Bab al Azizia, which is Qadhafi's control center and his residence. A raid of at least five F-111's was intended here. A portion of the Tripoli International Airport. The Al Jumhuriya military barracks of Benghazi. The military barracks in Sidi Balal next to Tripoli. The Benina Air Base.

Because of the refusal of France and Spain to give permission for the F-111F strike aircraft and the electronic warfare [EW] EF-111F airplanes of the U.S. Air Force to fly across their territory, having taken off from the territory of Great Britain the airplanes were forced to cover a distance of 2800 nautical miles (5200 kilometers) to reach Tripoli. The American pilots had to accomplish a 13-14-hour flight. Twenty-eight refuellings were required to refuel the airplanes in the air (Fig. 2).

The detailed description of the raid by U.S. aviation from air bases in Great Britain and ships of the Sixth Fleet was prepared on the basis of reports in the journal JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY based on information from the Pentagon.

14 April. 1913 hours (time at the place of aggression).* Twenty-eight KC-10 and KC-135 tankers take off from Fairford and Mildenhall Air Bases in Great Britain. 1936 hours. Twenty-four F-111F's from the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing take off from Lakenheath Air Base with a course for Libya. Six of them are spare and they return to the bases, as planned, after the first refuelling. Eighteen airplanes continue flight to the target area. Thirteen of them attack the indicated targets, and five aircraft stop accomplishment of the mission (two airplanes cease accomplishment of the mission in connection with the failure of systems and there was no report on the reasons why the other airplanes did not accomplish the mission). Five EF-111 airplanes from the 42d Electronics Combat Squadron, 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, take off from Upper Hayford Air Base. Only three of them participate in the attack, one returns to Great Britain with the F-111F reserve airplanes, and the other is in reserve. Four refuellings in the radio silence mode were conducted on the flight route to the area of the target.

* The journal indicated the time as EST--Eastern Standard Time--American, with a time difference of 7 hours at the place of aggression.

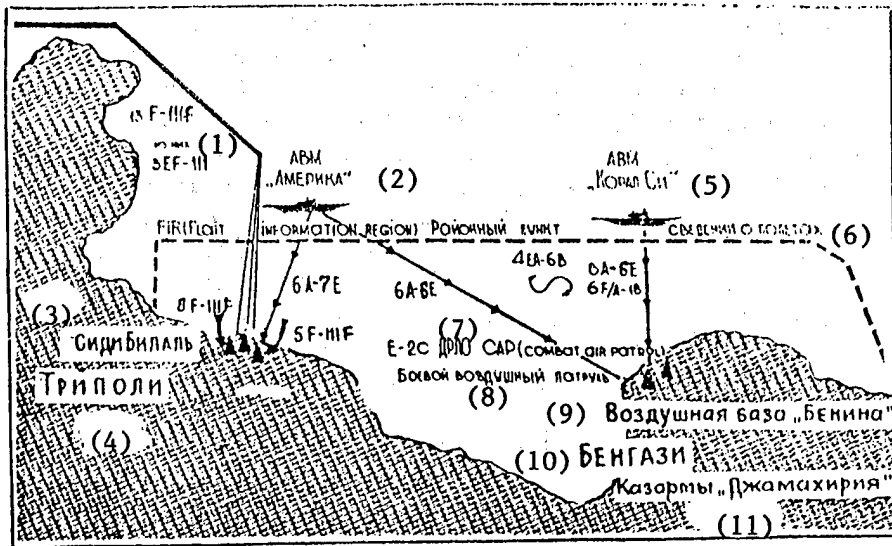


Figure 2

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Of them | 7. AWACS |
| 2. Multipurpose carrier "America" | 8. Combat air patrol |
| 3. Sidi Bilal | 9. Benina Air Base |
| 4. Tripoli | 10. Benghazi |
| 5. Multipurpose carrier "Coral Sea" | 11. Jumhuriya Barracks |
| 6. Regional flight information point | |

15 April. 0045-0115 hours. Fourteen A-6E airplanes take off from the carriers "America" (six airplanes) and "Coral Sea" (eight airplanes). Twelve of them attack the indicated targets and two cease accomplishment of the mission (reasons unknown). 0020-0120 hours. Eighteen A-6E attack aircraft and six F/A-18 support aircraft take off from the carrier "Coral Sea." 0154 hours. EF-111 airplanes begin to conduct electronics combat and A-7E and A-6E airplanes operate against surface-to-air missile [SAM] positions. 0200 hours. Twelve A-6E airplanes begin raids simultaneously against the defensive positions of the Benina Air Base and the Al Jumhuriya Barracks in Benghazi. Eight F-111F's also begin raids against the Bab al Azizia military barracks and the Sidi Bilal training base near Tripoli. Five F-111's execute a raid against the Tripoli military air base (final target). 0213 hours. All naval attack aircraft give the report "Feet Wet" which means: "Aircraft have left Libyan air space and are over the sea." However, not all aircraft transmitted this report. 0215 hours. Search and rescue forces are in a state of readiness to search for an airplane which possibly disappeared. 0246 hours. Attack airplanes returned to the carrier "Coral Sea." 0253. Attack airplanes and support airplanes returned to the carrier "America." 0314 hours. During the first refuelling while returning the absence of one F-111F airplane was established. One F-111F airplane, returning to Great Britain, deviated from the course due to overheated engines and flew to the Rota Naval Base in Spain. 0624 hours. The F-111F which deviated from the course reached the Rota base. 1010 hours. It was reported that all aircraft returned safely to air bases in Great Britain (except for the F-111F which flew to Rota and the F-111F which disappeared). 1700 hours. The search for the F-111F airplane which disappeared ended. 17 April. The Pentagon reported that the

crew perished during the raid. The two crew members were from the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing (Lakenheath Air Base).

The foreign press includes the following among the special features of the tactics for launching the strikes. The airplanes from bases in Great Britain flew at an altitude of 9150 meters. They refuelled four times during the seven-hour flight. After the first refuelling six aircraft returned to the air base. At this time the carriers "Coral Sea" and "America" set out for the shores of Libya. During the period between 2020 and 0120 hours (local time) almost 100 airplanes took off from the carriers, including A-6E's, A-7E's, F/A-18's, and other air support airplanes.

To avoid radar detection, the airplanes directed at Tripoli and Benghazi dropped to an altitude of 150 meters. The airplanes equipped with radar jamming equipment and HARM missiles were the first to reach their targets at 0154 hours (15 April). At 0200 hours an A-6E squadron flew over Benghazi from the direction of the Gulf of Sidra and began to bomb the air base. In Tripoli, some of the airplanes from the F-111F squadron executed a maneuver in the area of the target and approached the objective from the south. Dropped on Tripoli were 230-kg free-falling bombs and 900-kg Paveway-2 bombs with laser guidance. After the bombing, the airplanes began to take off quickly to the north. Two more aerial refuellings were performed on the return trip. From the unit of bombers which launched strikes against Qadhafi's residence, four dropped 16 Paveway-2 bombs with laser guidance (900-kg). Altogether, in the operation 150 airplanes went into action and 60 tons of bombs were dropped, and one F-111F fighter-bomber and a crew of two men was lost.

During preparation as well as in the course of the operation, the foreign press reports, the combat operations of the aviation received comprehensive support, here special attention being paid to reconnaissance and electronic warfare.

The foreign press notes a substantial circumstance: three days prior to the start of the operation aerial reconnaissance planes of the Boeing KC-135 and Lockheed P-3C Orion type appeared in the Mediterranean sky. Carrier-based long-range radar detection aircraft of the E-2C Hawkeye type (AWACS) joined in the continuous aerial reconnaissance of the strike objectives on the territory of Libya.

The E-2C's took off prior to the arrival of the Navy's F-111F's to provide the monitoring and control of the forthcoming combat operations. Their mission also included the detection of Libyan airplanes in case they take off for operations against the American aviation. During the attack, the E-2C's did not discover one Libyan airplane in the air. The E-2C aircraft are equipped either with the AN/APS-125 radar or the APS-138 improved digital long-range radar. These radars can operate in the automatic target detection and tracking mode and they have improved antijamming characteristics. Information about a target can be transmitted to a patrol airplane or to the data processing center on aircraft carriers. They have also been given the task of providing control in the course of searches and rescue work if the necessity arises.

Prior to the start of the attack, as the foreign press reports, Air Force EF-111A (Raven) and Navy EA-6B (Prowler) aircraft were used for the electronic suppression of air defense means. Both types of aircraft are equipped with the same jamming systems. The EA-6B was employed for jamming during the raids of naval aviation on Benghazi and of the Air Force--on Tripoli.

Combat cover of the operation was accomplished by F-14 and F/A-18 airplanes. The F-14's were equipped with Phoenix air-to-air missiles or with a combination of Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles. The F/A-18's had Sidewinders and Sparrows. Two squadrons of F/A-18 airplanes were on the carrier "Coral Sea." The group for suppression of Libyan air defense electronic equipment consisted of F/A-18 aircraft armed with HARM missiles and A-7E's capable of carrying Shrike as well as HARM missiles. F-111F and A-6E Intruder aircraft were used as components of the strike groups.

According to Pentagon reports, Mk84 Paveway-2 bombs with laser guidance (900 kg) and free-falling bombs (230 kg) in the variants of the KTI-351 A/B or GBI-15 and Mk82 Snakeye respectively were employed. The A-6E Intruder aircraft dropped free-falling 230-kg and 340-kg bombs.

According to reports in the Western press, just what is the evaluation of the effectiveness of the weapons which were used in the operation? Of the 18 F-111F airplanes which continued their flight to the shores of Libya after the first refuelling, 13 participated in the operation and 5 airplanes were deprived of this opportunity for unestablished reasons. It is necessary to add to this number two more A-6E attack aircraft. According to the official acknowledgement of the Pentagon, one F-111F was shot down.

In its first official evaluation of the bombing strike which was launched 15 April against Libya, the U.S. Department of Defense acknowledged that three bombs did not land where it was planned and "exploded close to the French embassy," and two others did not land in the barracks in Benghazi and "destroyed two houses and the outer walls of adjoining buildings." The statement of the U.S. Department of Defense does not explain why some bombs, equipped with "high-precision guidance systems," did not hit the planned targets. As a result, peaceful, innocent residents suffered.

The entire world became a witness to the usual American aggression against an independent developing state on the African continent and the coarsest violation of the U.N. Charter which prohibits the use of force in international relations. But, as the foreign press reports, "The United States is planning new sanctions against Libya."

In connection with this, the Soviet Union occupied a position based on principle. The Soviet government decisively condemned the aggressive, marauding action of the United States against Libya--a sovereign state--and member of the United Nations, and demanded its immediate conclusion. Otherwise, in the Soviet Union they will be forced to draw far-reaching conclusions.

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6367

CSO: 8144/3528

NAVAL FORCES

WORK OF NIS SERVICE POST IN STRAITS LAUDED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Captain 3rd Rank V. Gromak of the Red Banner Northern Fleet: "At the Maritime Crossroads"]

[Text] Even from the concrete tower of the observation and communications post built on the high cliff above the bay it was not possible to see the patrol ship Leningradskiy Komsomolets, which was heading to the range for an exercise in artillery firing. On the screen of the radar set that was installed in the observation post, however, the image of the ship slowly moved in the confines of the strait to the exit to the ocean. Doubtless in the chart room of the Leningradskiy Komsomolets the navigator had laid the course carefully as usual. Nevertheless at the shore post of the port supervision service the sharply pointed pencil of the duty officer for the roadstead, Michman Romanyuk, was following all the maneuvers of the patrol ship in the bay with the same precision. At the post the usual work in such situations was going on - tracking the target. On some days there are several dozen targets.

I do not know who on the Leningradskiy Komsomolets slipped up: whether the navigator made a mistake or whether the helmsman was too slow in carrying out the command. But Romanyuk's pencil suddenly rested on a point off to the side of the recommended course. And the seaman on duty for radio communications D. Belysheva on orders from the duty officer for the roadstead quickly transmitted to the Leningradskiy Komsomolets a signal indicating that the rules of navigation in the bay had been violated. The reaction was immediate. On the screen of the radar set and on Michman Romanyuk's plotting board the image of the target obediently returned to the line of the recommended course.

The violation was insignificant. It did not have any noticeable effect on order in the roadstead. But it could not be ignored. Having been entered in a special journal it will later be the subject of a serious conversation with the commander of the patrol ship. Navigation does not tolerate the slightest liberties, especially in the strait in which dozens of warships and merchant ships ply head-on courses. The roadstead is a lively maritime crossroads; therefore the seamen must display particular alertness and precision. A unique regulator - the port supervision service - checks on safety of navigation here.

The work of its specialists is tense and responsible. It is no accident that

all those who serve here are experienced seamen, who have sailed and seen a great deal. For example, the commander of the port supervision service, Captain Lieutenant T. Bashko, commanded a target boat several years ago. Senior Michman I. Onishchenko previously served for a long time on a minesweeper. You had better believe they know the true value of precision in navigation. The best evidence of the high skills and exactingness of Captain Lieutenant Bashko and his subordinates in my opinion is the fact that for many years there has not been a single serious shipping accident in their zone of responsibility.

I was told here about an incident that took place several years ago. A frequent guest in these parts - a hurricane-force wind - almost caused a disaster. The signalmen at the observation and communications post noticed that a huge cruiser lying at mooring buoys was just beginning to move. They immediately radioed the ship: "You are drifting." An inspection was made there. The mooring lines were in order and the buoys to which they were attached were also all right. So the alarm was considered to have been a false one. The port supervision post was insistent, however: "Look out, you are being carried towards shore." And only then those on board the cruiser figured out the situation, which had become dangerous, and sounded the emergency alarm. It turned out the the buoys themselves, which supposedly were firmly attached to the bottom by the iron flukes of the anchors, were torn away by the hurricane force of the wind and dragged together with the ship towards the wharfs.

Through extraordinary measures the catastrophe was averted. And the signalman who distinguished himself was rewarded by the fleet commander.

This story from long ago is remembered because it is exceptional. Usually real naval orderliness prevails in the roadstead. The slightest deviation, as in the case with the Leningradskiy Komsomolets, is immediately forestalled by the port supervision service. How this is done I had another chance to see during a tour of the roadstead.

The period of time set aside for special training had just ended, and on the previously empty surface of the bay nimble speedboats began to zip back and forth. We stopped one of them. Michman Romanyuk inspected it extremely thoroughly. There were no complaints, and the speedboat continued on its way.

At one of the docks there is the launch from the anti-submarine cruiser Kiev. The petty officer does not have a license to operate a boat, and the life jackets are covered with doodles. To top it off the boat does not have the required emergency and lifesaving equipment on board. Here was an accident waiting to happen.

I see how Michman Romanyuk frowns in dissatisfaction. For him, having served for a long time in the Navy, this disorderliness is clearly distasteful. It is decided to return the launch to the warship, informing the proper authorities about the incident so that measures may be taken.

We proceed on. And along the way I learn that there are ships, the boats of which do not arouse criticism even from the most punctilious inspectors. For example, the nuclear missile cruiser Kirov. Michman Romanyuk never saw the assistant commander of this ship who is responsible for the good condition and outfitting of the launches and lighters of the Kirov, but speaks of him with respect: an excellent mariner.

It is noon. The veil of the polar night that prevails in the Arctic has crept away, revealing the sea and hills in the gray twilight. Snow squalls, which raged all morning over the bay, have calmed down. Visibility is excellent. But my conversaton partner is disappointed. "You will not see," he says, "the real work of the port supervision service. When the wind blows from the north and the temperature falls to 20° below zero, then you can see real work, you hardly have time to turn around. Traffic on the roadstead is just as lively. And the port supervision service is occupied with its usual work - tracking targets."

12893

CSO: 1801/108

NAVAL FORCES

REALISTIC FIRE-FIGHTING TRAINING REPORTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Captain 3rd Rank V. Verbitskiy of the Double Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "Fire in the Compartment"]

[Text] The insistent sound of the bells of a loud battle penetrated the silence of the compartments. A boiling torrent of reports and commands pours out of the ship's loudspeakers.

Michman A. Balashov quickly descends the ladder to the officers' corridor - to the place where the emergency crew assembles when there is an alarm. There the seamen have already lined up who, regardless of the departments in which they served, have become his subordinates for the period of emergency. Balashov has been commanding the ship's emergency crew for several years. He has participated in training exercises fighting for survivability hundreds of times and more often than not has known in the first moments after the announcement of an emergency alarm: this is just training. Today such a feeling is absent; no training session or exercise was planned for this day.

"Fire in a compartment of the training ship," the voice amplified by the loudspeaker booms out. "The commander of the emergency crew should have the source of the fire scouted and report recommendations for extinguishing it."

The michman issued orders to the sailors, and the latter ran after him to the training ship, gathering the firefighting equipment mounted in the prescribed places on their way. Thick clouds of smoke issued from the cover of one of the hatches.

Fire on a ship is terrifying and merciless. History knows many cases in which ships perished from fire. Only the courage, decisiveness and skill of the sailors can prove to be stronger than the fire.

Now ships are outfitted with firefighting equipment that, if used properly, is capable of extinguishing almost any fire. This equipment includes sprinkler systems and systems for flooding the ammunition stores, foam generators, various kinds of fire extinguishers and gas extinguishing systems. Personnel also feel themselves much better protected when battling the blaze: the seamen use oxygen-insulating gas masks, heat-resistant suits and other equipment.

Michman Balashov reported to the senior assistant commander of the ship the results of scouting the source of the fire and a variant for putting it out. The recommendation of the commander of the emergency crew was accepted. The seamen prepared the foam generator for operation right away, and a powerful white stream flew into the smoke-filled compartment. Crimson reflections of the flame danced on the eyepieces of the seamen's gas masks. The snow-white cap of foam, seeming unnatural in the sooty compartment, covered the heart of the fire more and more densely, taming the blaze.

Through eyepieces darkened with soot the michman saw Captain 2nd Rank I. Poklonskiy in the vestibule. The officer pointed encouragingly at his stopwatch as if to say, "you will manage within the norm."

When Captain 2nd Rank Poklonskiy took over the duty of assistant chief mechanic of the unit [soyedineniye], the possibilities of the training ship for effectively preparing the seamen to fight for the survival of the ship were not fully utilized by a long shot. Poklonskiy began by analyzing in detail the situation existing in this important form of military training. It did not take a lot of time for the officer, who had long years of experience in commanding the electromechanical department and was a master of military science, to determine the "bottlenecks." The following things stood out above all: in some ships there was no instructional emergency rescue equipment, training sessions in departments and shipboard exercises on fighting for survivability were conducted formally and the striving of some leaders for simplification and unjustified conventions became a habit. Also in general hardly anyone paid the necessary attention to questions of developing the seamen's psychological steadfastness in the struggle with fire. Rather the usual, easily accessible and cold "hot spots" were extinguished in record time. If part of the scenario for the exercise was revised, however, a picture that was not at all so favorable was revealed.

There was another reason, moreover: the struggle for survival on ships is governed by many regulatory documents, but there is no uniform, well-composed methodology answering the question of how to prepare seamen, petty officers, the personnel of a military post or a crew.

Captain 2nd Rank Poklonskiy worked for a long time on the creation of a methodology for differentiated training. He did not shut himself up in his cabin for this work - each line of this document was tested in training practice. Based on the general assessment of both ship specialists and officers of the technical directorate of the fleet it was drawn up on a professional level and deserves to be published as a textbook. Now it can already be said with confidence: on ships where Poklonskiy's new methodology has been introduced the practical training of emergency crews has improved noticeably and the seamen have learned to deal with the most unexpected and complex problems in a creative, unconventional way and have acquired firm habits in the struggle for the survivability of a ship.

Today's training exercise was one of many that are conducted in the unit in accordance with Poklonskiy's methodology, the main point of which is to ensure

unexpectedness in conditions approaching those of a real emergency. The seamen fought a real fire in a situation that differed little from an actual accident. A training exercise like this provides a great deal from the standpoint of the practical struggle for survival. The instruction did not have arbitrary conditions and it produced real results.

EDITOR'S NOTE: So, we have here an example of progressive experience that has received the approval of the officers of the technical directorate of the fleet. Is this enough, however, for the experience to be recognized officially and disseminated properly? Unfortunately it is not uncommon for good initiatives, even after being approved and recognized, to end up being forgotten. The newspaper will tell how things turn out in this case after some time has passed.

12893

CSO: 1801/108

NAVAL FORCES

MINE-SWEEPING EXERCISE NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Nov 86 p 1

[Article by Captain 2nd Rank S. Bazilchuk of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet:
"Minesweepers in Action"]

[Text] The ships of the minesweeper group under the command of Captain 2nd Rank I. Durnev left their base heading for the area where mines had been discovered.

Upon arrival at their destination the ships immediately proceeded to carry out their assignment. In accordance with the conditions of the tactical exercise, however, the "enemy" made up his mind to prevent the mines in the fairway from being cleared. After several air attacks the umpire announced:

"Part of the personnel 'have been put out of action' from the effect of weapons of mass destruction."

This was only the first ordeal of the minesweeper crews. In an effort to "bottle up" the forces of our naval strike group more reliably the "enemy" deliberately dropped a number of cluster mines to depths where it was impossible to use the equipment of the naval minesweepers.

After assessing the complex situation that had arisen Captain 2nd Rank Durnev decided to bring in the attached minesweeping helicopters for the minesweeping. The naval seamen had already carried out several such assignments successfully in cooperation with the helicopters.

And now the naval aviators began their operations. "The enemy" again made an attempt to launch an attack from the air, this time by helicopter. His plans were frustrated, however, by the mighty system of close defensive fire created by the antiaircraft weapons of the minesweepers and tactical support ships. After a short time a series of gray plumes rose on the strip of the water area designated for taking out the ships that were "locked in" for the time being. This was accomplished masterfully by the crew of minesweeper helicopters led by Major M. Sopelnikov. The foundation for success was laid. The work of the special military minesweeping ships designed for guiding ships through the mine fields continued in the fairway. Using the towed devices called sweeps skillfully, they were able on the very first tack to cut the cables connecting the "horned death" to the bottom anchor. The black spheres bobbed on the

waves...

In the not too distant past most mines were contact mines, i. e. they required a blow or touch with the hull to explode. Now they can explode when affected by the magnetic field of the ship, by the pressure created by it in the water, by the propeller noises and by other factors. And if one takes into account the fact that mine devices are capable of still other surprises, it becomes clear: combatting them is not a simple task.

Therefore in an exercise the emphasis is placed on improving the methods for seeking and destroying mines with the aid of modern sweeping and anti-mine equipment. In this connection one of the instructional goals is to develop stable moral and psychological qualities in the personnel.

There was competition among the minesweepers Paravan, Zalp and others as to which would best carry out all of the elements of the task assigned them. And this is understandable: what could be better than a exercise for determining how they measured up with regard to training, skills and ability to solve the problems of armed combat in naval theaters in a modern manner.

The commanding officers of the minesweepers, Captain Lieutenant V. Myasnikov, Captain 3rd Rank A. Goncharov and others, headed the struggle of the personnel for an excellent result in the exercise.

In order to speed up laying the channel the ships exited in turn to the dangerous zones. The competing crews and their commanders turned out to be uniformly successful, finding all of the mines laid by the "enemy." But passage is considered to be absolutely safe for navigation only when the surfacing mines have been destroyed or towed to a designated area.

"Shoot the mines with antiaircraft guns," continued the scenario of the umpire.

This meant that the gunlayers' turn had come to display their marksmanship in exploiting the success of the minesweeping crews. The most accurate turned out to be the sailor R. Magomedov. For him one shot was enough to complete the exercise with an excellent mark.

After several hours of intense work the minesweeping group succeeded in completely clearing the fairway for the passage of a detachment of warships. The senior commander gave a high rating to the actions of the sailors and aviators.

12893

CSO: 1801/108

CIVIL DEFENSE

BRIEFS

LEAVE FOR MEDICAL WORKERS?--Are members of medical detachments authorized additional 3 days leave? (Question asked by N. Sitnov of Tula Oblast, civil defense chief of the Pokrovskaya Mine) Answer. According to existing regulations, personnel of civil defense formations are not authorized any additional leave or other benefits. A medical detachment is the same type of formation as, say, a rescue team, reconnaissance group, radiation and chemical observation post, first-aid detachment, or any other. [Text] [Moscow VOYENNYE ZNANIYA in Russian No 11, Nov 86 p 22] [COPYRIGHT: "Voyennyye znaniya", 1986] 12567

CSO: 1801/102

FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

APN: U.S. CONTINUES PREPARATIONS FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL WAR

Moscow APN MILITARY BULLETIN in English No 4 (10), Feb 87 pp 9-12

[Text] Having joined the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the [word omitted] did not stop developing new generations of bacteriological and toxin weapons.

The main U.S. Army centre at which bacteriological (biological) weapons are specially developed operates on the basis of the Dugway testing ground. The Baker biological laboratory functions on its territory, dozens of kilometres away from the military dwelling township of the testing ground and at a sizable distance from the technological centre in Dutt. At the beginning of the 1970's 440 specialists from other U.S. centres of the development of bacteriological weapons--the special bacteriological laboratories of Fort Detrick (Maryland) and the Pine Bluff arsenal of the U.S. Army (Arkansas) were transferred to the Baker Laboratory. It continually builds up the equipment of its units. In the past two-three years alone 300 million dollars were allocated to it for purchasing a large-size chamber making it possible to experiment with the pathogenes of particularly dangerous infections and to carry out research into bacteriological (biological) weapons and to test samples of them. In 1985 the journal of the American Chemical Society wrote that the Baker Laboratory did not need such large-size equipment for testing means of defence and that the aforesaid chamber had been supplied first of all for accomplishing a set of tasks directly relating to the development of bacteriological weapons which are used in practice. It was reported that 50 horses had simultaneously died near that laboratory from a rare African disease. The pathogene of this disease could get into the environment only as a result of the large-scale tests conducted at the testing ground.

The development of bacteriological weapons continues also in the Fort Detrick military garrison, despite the switching of its laboratories to peaceful research which was announced long ago by Richard Nixon. The military-medical research institute of infectious diseases situated in that garrison pays considerable attention to achieving great viability of the viruses of Rift Valley Fever (the strain was isolated during the epidemics in Egypt in 1977-1978), Japanese encephalitis B, Q Fever and Lassa Fever in the aerosol condition. In natural conditions these infections are spread by carriers--mosquitoes and arthropoda.

Analogous research is carried out by the Baker Laboratory which studied the stability of the aerosol reoviruses of types 1, 2 and 3 which affect man's respiratory and digestive tracts.

Research into viral aerosols is conducted at the laboratories of the scientific-technical and testing base of the U.S. Navy in Oakland (California), at North Carolina University and the University of California. Experiments are held to find out the lethal doses of various pathogenes, including Lassa virus.

The U.S. military laboratories conduct research into rerogenous infection of animals with cholera and diphtheritic toxins and staphylococcus enterotoxins. Such a way of intoxication is not found in natural conditions.

The studies of the mechanisms of transmission of viral infections by mosquitoes, arthropoda and migrant birds continue, and the most suitable mosquitoes are selected.

The gene engineering methods are used to inculcate in saprophyte microorganisms, such as the colon bacillus, an ability to produce dangerous toxins. It was reported that a pathogenic strain of the colon bacillus has been developed in the USA through the introduction of the genetic information of Flexner Shigella into the cells of the colon bacillus.

The aforesaid examples show that a great part of the work with microorganisms carried out at the military and civilian laboratories of the USA has nothing to do with health protection. This research is conducted only with a view to developing bacteriological weapons of a new generation.

The Pnetagon does not make a secret of the fact that it carries out some activities in violation of the Biological Convention. In the general budget of medical studies the planning and financing administration of the U.S. Defence Department has a special item of expenditures on "defensive biological systems of weapons." The U.S. Defense Department issues manuals on combat uses of bacteriological weapons and the rules of its storage and transportation. A military school for training specialists in the field of bacteriological weapons exists in the USA.

Production capacities, fit for operation, for manufacturing bacteriological weapons, including ferments, equipping lines and cryogenic installations in the system of underground storages, are preserved on the territory of the Army arsenal in Pine Bluff.

During the preparation of the second conference of the states-parties to the Biological Convention held in Geneva in September 1986 the Soviet Union voluntarily made a statement that it had not transferred bacteriological and toxin weapons, as well as information on the technology of its production, to third countries. At the same time it was stated that the USSR did not conduct research or tests of biological weapons on the territory of the allied or other countries. The USA did not make such a statement. It finances biological research conducted in Taiwan, South Africa, Pakistan and some other countries in

countries in execution of the Pentagon's order. For all that, the Bacteriological Convention to a certain extent restrains the development of biological weapons. This explains the clearly visible desire of the U.S. military to lessen the significance of the Convention, to prompt the idea that it is ineffective. For instance, Douglas Feith, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, called the Convention false publicity of the idea that the problem of prohibition of bacteriological weapons can allegedly be resolved.

(Military Bulletin's own information)

/9274

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

GENERAL URGES IMPORTANCE OF DEFENSE REOURCES

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 3, Mar 87 pp 2-5

[Article by General of the Army Vitaly Shabanov, deputy defense minister of the USSR]

[Text] The 27th CPSU Congress, held from February 25 to March 6, 1986, mapped out political, economic, social and cultural targets for the period up to the year 2000. Special attention was paid to the issue of war and peace on Earth and the country's defences.

A year has passed. The economy is working for the Congress plans as are the USSR Armed Forces. The article below will describe some of the trends to this work.

Vitaly Shabanov, born in 1923, has been in active service since 1941. After the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 he took a degree at the Air Force Academy, Leningrad, and worked as a test engineer and assistant chief engineer for aircraft equipment tests. From 1949 to 1972 he worked as a chief engineer, a deputy laboratory head, a leading and chief designer, a design bureau head and a deputy General Designer. From 1972 to 1974 the General Director of a scientific and production association. From 1974 to 1978 he is Deputy Minister of the Radio Industry. From 1978 to this day he is Deputy Defence Minister.

He is a member of the CPSU Central Committee, Hero of Socialist Labour, and holds the Lenin and USSR State Prizes.

THE Communist Party of the Soviet Union has set out to transform all aspects of life in Soviet society and steadily and comprehensively upgrade the socialist system to help Soviet society advance to communism, basing on the nation's socio-economic development.

The peaceful and constructive orientation of Soviet internal policy is closely connected with international policy.

That international policy stresses world peace and prevention of nuclear war.

The Soviet Union consistently opposes the imperialists' policies of war and aggression and uncovers all plans inimical to the cause of peace and freedom.

The USSR does not aspire to military superiority and is against wars limited or global. We have always proclaimed our willingness to take far-reaching measures to curb and even liquidate nuclear weapons.

At the same time the Soviet Government makes it quite clear that it will never allow the current equilibrium of forces to be tipped and will always ensure the security of the USSR and its allies.

As long as there is the danger that imperialists may unleash aggressive wars and armed conflicts, the Communist Party will make every effort to ensure that the Soviet Armed Forces remain at a level that rules out strategic superiority of the forces of imperialism. "The complicated international situation today," stresses the January (1987) Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, "and the US militant imperialist circles' bid to tip the military-strategic parity and attain nuclear supremacy require a speedier build-up of the economic potential and an all-round consolidation of our country's defence capacities, maintaining the defence capability at an appropriate level."

The key approaches to the technical equipment of the Armed Forces, first promulgated

by Lenin, are by developing the defence industry and by applying advances in science and technology as fully as possible. Technology progress has always boosted all-round military development and will undoubtedly do so in the future, changing not only the material and technical foundation of the army and navy but the system of manning and personnel training and military art and science in general. So the 27th CPSU Congress put special emphasis on faster technology development in this country.

There are today more versatile and deeper links between technology advance, weapon production and forces development. Growth in armed forces is indeed now more dependent on the overall level of science and technology and the material foundation for scientific advances, rather than on individual discoveries and inventions.

To keep the technical potential of the Armed Forces up to date, the Soviet Union has worked out a policy of integrated military and technological development based on substantiated views on weapons development and combat equipment. This policy serves as the foundation for a firm union between industry and science to produce highly effective equipment models. It also makes possible satisfying today's and future national defence needs most completely and comprehensively.

The major objectives of the policy outlined at the 27th CPSU Congress are: rational perfection of weapons and combat equipment; saving military personnel effort by applying means of mechanisation and integrated automatisisation to the servicing of military equipment as fully as possible; improving existing technical means for control of forces and weapons.

Clearly, these are very complex objectives. They call for coordinated efforts by both military and non-military technicians. And only the socialist system can arrange such coordination on the required scale.

The importance of saving and using rationally resources was strongly urged at the Congress. Defence resources are no exception. In other words, we must make the fullest possible use of advances which will boost the performance of military equipment by an order of magnitude with the lowest possible expenditure of raw materials and machinery.

In line with such objectives, the following major development trends are now under way:

(1) Top priority is given to the weapons on which the strength of the USSR Armed Forces primarily depends. The purpose is to maintain constant and stable parity with the likely adversary in major weapon types, relying on actual potential.

(2) The most rational composition of new and future weapons for every fighting service and arm of the Armed Forces is being substantiated scientifically, taking into account that they are to act in close liaison.

(3) New models of weapons and combat equipment with high fighting performance and sufficient service life are being improved as planned. The latest advances in electronics, computing technology etc. and new types of materials and fuels are being applied on a large scale.

(4) Efforts are being made to make weapons technology as highly adaptable to streamlined production and unification as possible, so that series production of weapons will involve minimal manpower and materials. Updating is also constantly taken into account. Waste-free and resource-saving methods and processes are being introduced.

(5) Research is well under way to ensure that the potential of weapons can be used in combat as fully as possible, weapons can be handled as simply as possible, the number of personnel needed to service weapons can be kept to a minimum and the human effort needed to keep equipment constantly on the alert can be reduced substantially.

(6) Work is in progress to develop technical means to ensure precise and non-stop control of forces and weapons, taking into account the great spatial extent and high speed of modern military operations.

(7) Existing weapons and combat equipment are being constantly improved and updated. Many years of practice along these lines have proved that this is economically sound.

Lenin's principle that he who has the better equipment, organisation and discipline will carry the day is as valid as ever before. The Soviet Army and Navy have all these things to crush any aggressor jointly with the armies of fraternal states.

The Strategic Rocket Forces, with their capability of hitting effectively any point on earth, are the major military strength of the USSR Armed Forces. A great deal of the latest technology has been invested in those forces.

The Soviet Land Forces' weapons and equipment are all first-class — tactical and theatre missile launchers, tanks, armoured personnel carriers, cannon and rocket artillery pieces, anti-tank and air defence systems etc. Research and development is constantly in progress to make all these weapons more efficient as regards fire power, strike force, manoeuvrability and mobility, and the ability to perform long marches and operate in extreme situations.

Tanks with their reliable armour protection, high armour-piercing ability weapons, powerful engines and modern driving and fire control instruments, are the Land Forces' main strike force.

The Land Forces today include new fighting arms (e. g. Rocket Forces and Artillery of the Air Defence Forces), with firing range, rate of fire and mobility of rocket launchers and artillery pieces ever increasing. The engineer, chemical, communication and other troops have diverse equipment.

The Air Defence Forces are supplied with air defence missile systems with high noise immunity and an ability to hit any air targets with precision. Highly effective too are airborne intercept systems, automatic control systems and communication facilities. The hardware at the disposal of this fighting service allows any enemy threat to be quickly detected and averted.

The Air Force is provided with supersonic aircraft carrying the latest electronic equipment, automatic control systems and all-weather armament. Missile carrying aircraft are capable of dealing nuclear missile strikes without entering the enemy air defence area.

Helicopters are also developing at a high rate. They can support land forces, strike at enemy armour, quickly shift the effort from one sector to another, drop paratroop forces, afford communication and troop control, and deliver cargoes.

The Navy has submarines equipped with strategic missiles, multi-purpose surface ships of different types, air-capable ships, naval missile

aircraft, coastal artillery and well-equipped marines.

Nuclear submarines with long-range missiles are essential naval force.

Career officers in the army and navy must be highly competent. The responsibilities placed upon Soviet officers are stringent. "The Central Committee," emphasised Mikhail Gorbachev in his report at the January (1987) Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, "firmly counts on the military personnel, on the Soviet officer corps in strengthening the country's defence capacity. I am positive that in the complicated international situation today the Communists and all army and navy personnel will act with complete responsibility, upgrade their skills, and increase the combat readiness of all arms and services."

* * *

The Soviet military doctrine is entirely defensive, not offensive. We do not intend to seize any foreign territory, or subjugate any nation or to be the first to mount a nuclear attack. But the increasing aggressiveness of the imperialists is forcing the Soviet Union to be always on the alert, while going on to campaign for world peace. Campaigning for peace is indeed an important part of the defence of socialism, whereas the defence of socialism is an essential condition for stable and permanent peace the world round.

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AFGHANISTAN

MOUNTAIN TRAINING IN CENTRAL ASIAN MD DISCUSSED

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 1, 1987 pp 8-11

[Report by Maj N. Ivanov and Lt Col (Res) V. Chepiga (photographs), SOVETSKIY VOIN special correspondents, Red Banner Central Asian Military District, under the rubric "The 70th Anniversary of Great October": "Take the Pass"; first paragraph is SOVETSKIY VOIN introduction]

[Text] The geographic situation of the Red Banner Central Military District is such that it is sometimes not winter here in January and not summer in July. The weather is shaped by the Pamir and Tien Shan mountain ranges and extensions of the Hindu Kush. They also impose special conditions upon the combat training of the troops: mountain training is one of the main areas of training.

Senior Lieutenant Oleg Fedosyuk's platoon had been fighting the "rams' heads"-- low, gently sloping hills not named or indicated on even the most detailed maps--for the third day. The snow which fell during the night was trampled and scattered by the soldiers on the slopes. The faces of the motorized riflemen had been blackened by the sun, the wind and fatigue, but Fedosyuk did not halt the drilling; he showed them over and over again how to climb the mountains in single file, how to attack an enemy on the peaks, how to cross over cliff ledges.

"Chernov," he said in his sharp voice, "stop looking at your boots. Look ahead and choose your path. And be prepared for an encounter with the 'enemy.' We are in the mountains not as tourists or mountain climbers but as soldiers."

The NCOs saw that the commander was concerned. They drew closer together, and their voices became firmer.

"Neither enthusiasm nor a second breath, neither anger nor strong language will lift you up the mountains," Fedosyuk said, directing the energy of the junior commanders into the proper channel. "Only the capable can climb mountains."

"Only the capable," Fedosyuk repeated to himself. Just as there are no in-betweens of light and shade in the mountains, half-hearted effort, just getting by, is not recognized in the mountain training--only the ability to

operate in gorges, on cliffs, on glaciers, in the presence of rock slides and torrents. The commander punishes no one in the mountains: the negligent can be punished by the ridges and steep slopes themselves. Fedosyuk's platoon and the other subunits in Captain Rashit Batyrov's company would soon be covering a route in the second category of difficulty; a "two," the mountain climbers call it. "But a five has to be earned for the 'two'," the company commander said, making a play on words with the numbers, without a trace of humor.

Fedosyuk clearly understood that it had to be a "five." A mere stumble in the mountains endangers one's life, but the soldier has to think first of all about completing the combat mission.

Oleg Fedosyuk himself is a candidate sports master in mountain- and rock-climbing. He became intrigued with the mountains while a student at the Krasnoyarsk Polytechnic Institute.

The company commander himself has spent a lot of time in the mountains. Instead of a sports rating, he was awarded the Red Star Order, however, because the mountains were in Afghanistan, and Captain Batyrov was fulfilling his international duty there. The officers' experience has been the yardstick by which the training of the motorized riflemen to operate in mountain terrain is measured.

"Satisfied"? Fedosyuk had not noticed the company commander come up and stop next to him. He started to give an order, but Batyrov touched his elbow and said: "Go ahead and practice. Tomorrow, its the mountains. The platoon is in the flanking detachment."

...People strive not for the ridges but for the peaks--whether it be in life, on a campaign or in the combat training. Fedosyuk sized up the steep glacial slope, blinding in the sunlight. The platoon, reinforced with the company's best mountain climbers, stood behind him. The platoon commander thought it over: "If the 'enemy' were expecting it to approach the glacier, it would be somewhere else and not here. Furthermore, there were relatively easy mountains nearby, which could be crossed even by an infantry combat vehicle with an experienced mechanic-driver at the wheel." "Come this way," they tempted the senior lieutenant with their gentle slopes. "You can save time, and you won't have to wear yourself out...."

Fedosyuk headed for the snow-covered peak, however. Only the mirror-like surface contained a patch of sunlight. Only the commander, proceeding in front, could set an example for his subordinates.

The long line of the detachment stretched out behind the platoon commander. A few brief instructions, and it bristled with weapons, left and right; the most veteran mountain climbers were at the front and at the end.

Mountain exercises are more than just a matter of running through some specific activity--overcoming a gorge, let us say. It is an inexorable rule in the district forces that the mountain training must be conducted only in a comprehensive manner, only in a setting approaching a tactical combat situation to

the maximum possible degree. And Fedosyuk knew that if he was assigned the mission of straddling a pass, the success of the other subunits operating simultaneously in the mountains would depend upon this. If his platoon did not carry out its mission, the other subunits would also not get through the training activities.

Like an awkward child's drawing, the lop-sided shadow of an aircraft crawled over an adjacent slope. Aeroflot was hauling its passengers to their destinations. Every person on earth has his purpose. For some, it is to fly in the comfortable seat of an "Il"; for others, it is to climb cliffs. One looks at some of them here, in the Pamirs, and wonders: Who will take them? Who needs these cliffs, turned black and brown by the sun and the wind?

"Whoever wants to learn how to fight will take them. They need them," Fedosyuk is absolutely firm in this opinion. He then adds more concretely: "We will take them"!

Sergeants Ignatovy, twin brothers, were next to the platoon commander, leaning toward the slope. They look so much alike that no one dares call them by name. Even the platoon commander calls them "Ignatov left" and "Ignatov right." They were granted leave for their excellent nighttime firing in demonstration classes. The award had not relieved them of their work as soldiers, however. An award is an incentive to strive for new achievements and not a pedestal to rest on. Even now, with their leave actually in hand, the sergeants would continue to go into the mountains until their plane took off for their native Ryazan region. The way things had developed, their personal know-how and their ability to direct subordinates in complex situations were more important than a homecoming. Nikolay, acting as leader (for a whole 15 minutes), replied: "Yes Sir!" He was echoed by Boris.

The brothers are married. In civilian life, Nikolay was a cook; Boris a milling-machine operator. Prior to the army, they had rarely seen mountains even in pictures. The time had come, however, when it was necessary to serve under totally different circumstances. They readjusted from their previous life, became section commanders and learned about mountains. It is in the blood of the Soviet people, is instilled in our generation with mother's milk to think first about the homeland and then about oneself.

...The higher up the mountain, the steeper became the slope and the more snow there was.

"Rock!" the cry would infrequently pass down the line from one man to another, and the soldiers would freeze for a moment, relinquishing the path to a stone dislodged by someone's foot. Those seconds were enough to tear off a cluster of the wild barberry which grew every step of the way, and toss several of the slightly sour seeds into their mouths.

Firs accompanied the soldiers into the mountains. The most hardy of them broke away from the others and made their way almost to the very peak. Unprepossessing, but strong and stocky, they seemed to be stressing once more their similarity to people: a person does not center around an attractive appearance, nor around his bearing....

An alert ear picked up an extra sound: a brook bubbled along somewhere ahead. Fedosyuk glanced over the detachment. Ignatov in front and Ignatov at the rear raised their arms: "We see you. The situation is quiet." What more could an outflanking detachment need? It has no need of impressive attacks, fire from all types of weapons or vociferous "hurrahs!" In order to achieve victory it is sometimes important merely to climb quietly and unnoticed across a slope, and we shall give this military work, quiet and without affectation but so essential, its due.

The little stream turned out to be fairly wide for those parts, with ice-covered rocks emerging from the water. Although they could see not far away a crossing made of snow-powdered tree trunks, Senior Lieutenant Fedosyuk did not want to miss an opportunity to drill his men in crossing a mountain stream. As though he did not see the crossing, he moved downstream and selected the most turbulent section.

"Let me do it," Junior Sergeant Vladimir Stenyushin, said, breaking off the icy coat of armor on the rock closest to him with his ice-ax and preparing to stretch a rope to the opposite bank as a handhold. The platoon commander pointed to Chernov, however. (Stenyushin was the company's best mountain climber; he would make it across. Let the others do some balancing between the sky and the water. If one man knows how, this can help the commander to accomplish missions; if everyone knows how, it can mean the completion of a mission.)

Taking up a defense, the motorized riflemen waited for Vasilii Chernov to secure the rope to some boulders. And they glanced ahead to where the steep cliffs towered up. Everyone was guessing that the platoon commander would take them that way. The motorized riflemen talked quietly among themselves.

Fedosyuk noticed that the men were talking not about getting across the river but about what awaited them ahead! Had they truly taken their eyes off their boots and begun peering ahead, thinking about the next move? Life is a long process, and if this habit, acquired in the army, were retained and developed in his men, how much benefit they would bring to society, how much of what it needs!

Attaching their rappelling ropes to the handhold and leaving scratch marks on the rocks, drying in the sun, from the spikes on their mountaineering boots, the motorized riflemen slid across to the opposite bank. What awaited them there? The piercing quiet of icy cliffs? An "enemy" ambush? If it were the former, that would be good, but they had to be prepared for the latter. They had skills in climbing a glacier and had been trained to fight for a pass. Besides that.... Besides that, the mountains teach people to look ahead, to outline the goals and take the pinnacles, of which there would be many in the lives of these young fellows moving toward the clouds as a single body.

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11499

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AFGHANISTAN

JAPANESE ASSISTANCE TO INSURGENTS CITED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by V. Golovin, Tokyo: "The Bandits (Dushman) From Tokyo: Who is Sowing Death in Afghanistan"; first paragraph is SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] The question was clearly unexpected, and the representative of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs took a long pause, searching for a diplomatic answer. The stenographer sitting in the corner raised her head in surprise and froze, pencil in hand, awaiting the answer. Also waiting were several dozen reporters who had gathered for the regular briefing for foreign correspondents accredited in Tokyo. This was reported from Tokyo by the TASS correspondent.

Finally, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs raised his head and said: "Yes, we acknowledge that certain Japanese citizens have become involved in operations in Afghanistan.... We regret this, but we are physically unable to prevent it. Our government has not authorized its citizens to engage in such actions...." With these words official Tokyo admitted for the first time that Japanese mercenaries are taking part in the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

...A big fellow in a turban, his face covered with a beard, wearing a grimy robe and carrying a sub-machine gun peers out threatenly from photographs in many cheap Tokyo magazines today. The captions beneath the photographs leave no doubt that they show a "bona fide" dushman-murderer, although his passport lists him as a Japanese citizen. Koshiro Tanaka is this character's name, a fairly popular personality in local ultra-right circles. By conviction he is a fascist; by occupation a mercenary. The future dushman began his career as the owner of a small export-import company. He soon lost everything, however, and began pursuing a more profitable line: "special agent" for local ultra-right organizations. It was in this capacity that he was transferred to Pakistan at the orders of the bosses of the Japanese neofascists. There, for a considerable remuneration, he was to teach Afghan bandits dug in there techniques in the martial arts and tactics of hand-to-hand combat. For extra pay Tanaka takes part in bandit raids from the territory of the DRA, setting up ambushes on roads and arranging raids on civilian targets.

"There are many 'soldiers of fortune' from the USA and Western Europe in Peshawar," this dushman with the Tokyo passport informed reporters. "There are around 500 in my group, for example, and all of them are the best there are: they know how to lay mines and set up ambushes, and they are able to quietly 'do away with' an individual. How often have I gone behind the lines? I've lost count. I have taken part in direct armed raids on various targets in Afghanistan six times. What do I feel when I see the blood and the bodies? Actually nothing; I don't have time to think...."

"In general," he said, opening up, "the war against Afghanistan is not child's play. Most of the fellows from the States in Western Europe do not last more than a month in the Pakistani camps. We barely made it back alive from the last raid, for example, after running into some frontier troops...."

The mercenary complains that depression has spread among the dushman entrenched in Peshawar, that the youth "are tired of the war" and increasingly distrust the bandit leaders.

The Tokyo benefactors of the dushman, together with "like-minded people" from the Western nations, however, are doing everything they can to keep the center of Afghan counterrevolution smoldering in Pakistan from dying out. Reports are leaked to the press that Japanese fascist groups, supported by a number of prominent businessmen, regularly send special delegations to Peshawar with batches of special sabotage equipment, including complex radio equipment and night-vision devices.

Without fuss, the permanent delegation in Peshawar established the so-called "Japanese Youth Association," a large ultra-right terrorist group. It assumed the role of chief supplier of mercenaries "with Tokyo passports" to the military camps of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

..."We have not authorized our citizens to take such actions.... We are sorry, but we cannot prevent them from doing so," they say in Tokyo when asked about the participation of Japanese mercenaries in the undeclared war against sovereign Afghanistan. Local authorities seem to be making it clear that they will continue to look the other way as their nation is turned into one of the centers where subversive actions against the DRA are prepared.

Furthermore, it is no secret to anyone that the dushman ringleaders enjoy the lion's share of the considerable funds which Tokyo sends each year through the channels of so-called "assistance to the Afghan refugees." Emulating their oversea allies, highly placed Japanese emissaries have made it a rule during their visits to Pakistan to visit counterrevolutionary bases in Peshawar, demonstrating "moral support" for the mercenary killers and saboteurs entrenched there. And so, Koshiro Tanaka and "soldiers of fortune" like him do not have to worry about their "rear area." People in Tokyo do not plan to hinder them.

11499

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AFGHANISTAN

INSURGENT DEFECTIONS, ATTEMPTS TO HALT PEACE PROCESS CITED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 87 p 5

[Report by V. Akulov, Afghanistan: "Toward Reconciliation--With Dynamite and Missiles"]

[Text] A total of 1,500 armed individuals from counterrevolutionary formations went over to the side of the government in the province of Baghlan; 1,850 former dushman (bandits) laid down their weapons in Faryab; another 245 people have returned from abroad to their native villages in the provinces of Herat, Nangarhar and Bamian....

Reports like these reach the capital every day. According to estimates by competent Afghan sources, most of the armed groups of insurgents in the nation are involved in talks or indicate a desire to enter into talks.

Attempts by extremist groups in the counterrevolution to undermine the expanding national dialogue are not weakening, however; they are becoming perhaps even more frenzied. Shellings of posts and deployment sites of government troops, attacks on transport columns, attempts to carry out missile attacks against rural centers are openly provocative, and their goal is to devalue and undermine the reconciliation. The bloody "logic" of the bandits is simple: to counter peaceful initiatives with violence, dialogue with terror. When extraordinary commissions for national reconciliation begin to function, the response is murder of Abdulahad Arezbigi, chairman of the provincial commission, in Kunduz. When meetings are held in the villages in support of the authorities' peace-loving moves, Besmello and Karim Mukhib, ringleaders of bands of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan," respond by issuing instructions to their agents to toss grenades into the crowd of people....

Such are the facts of life in Afghanistan today.

11499

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AFGHANISTAN

WORK OF DRA MILITARY PILOTS PRAISED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Dec 86 p 5

[Report by Maj A. Oliynik, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "A Fiery Landing: The Story of a Feat Performed by Afghan Military Pilots"]

[Text] "This is 098. Struck by missile. Left engine on fire. Altitude 6,100; distance 17. Request support for emergency landing!" Senior Lieutenant Bakhrom reported this to ground in a single breath and then grasped the control wheel more tightly. The aircraft had begun tilting to the left. At that moment the Afghan pilots began fighting to save the lives of the passengers on board the An-26.

The aircraft, with the markings of the Afghan military aviation, was heading for the airfield. Wherever one looked below, there loomed the dark-brown ridges of the Hindu Kush. At times the snowy peaks of the summits, framed by the black abysses of canyons and serpentine mountain streams, seemed to reach the very aircraft at its 6-kilometer altitude.

Observing the panorama of mountains, Colonel Hoja Tojmuhammad, pilot-inspector and aircraft commander, was keeping his hands on the controls purely as a symbol. The aircraft was controlled by Senior Lieutenant Bakhrom, co-pilot. Out of the corner of his eye, the commander carefully observed the co-pilot's movements. He could see the latter's face grow stern from the tension. "The same age as my Faiz Mahmed," Hoja thought to himself. "He will be a good aircraft commander like my son. One can feel that he is one of ours, a flyer."

Although he was only 24 years old, PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] member Bakhrom had already succeeded in developing strong military character. The son of a poor peasant, he had unhesitatingly come to the defense of the gains of the April revolution. He first served in a self defense group at a lycee and then became a cadet at a military flight school. He flew a fighter after graduating from it. His combat flights suddenly came to a halt: his health let him down. This threatened to keep him out of the sky. Bakhrom decided to retrain as a military transport pilot. He spent hours on trainers and passed the exams to pilot an An-26. And now, his final test, a check flight, was coming to an end. All he had to do now was reach the airfield and land the aircraft without any mistakes. Colonel Tojmuhammad was confident that his subordinate would handle this test and successfully land the aircraft.

He chuckled to himself: Another fledgling would be flying on his own tomorrow. How many did this make?

His thoughts were interrupted by the voice of Captain Sayid Hakim, the navigator:

"Commander, we're over Logar."

"We'll be landing soon," Major Muhammed Dulla, airborne radio operator, responded in his dreamy voice through his throat microphone.

"Attention, crew: we're changing flight conditions, descending," the voice of the aircraft commander resounded over the aircraft intercom system (SPU).

Captain Mahbub Shah, aircraft engineer, disappeared through the door of the cockpit. He had decided to notify the passengers of the maneuver. In the Afghan skies, aircraft fly at the "ceiling"--that is, at maximum altitude--where they cannot be reached by dushman antiaircraft guns or missiles. They start to maneuver for the landing approach only when they are in the immediate area of the airfield, descending on a very steep path....

There were 25 people in the passenger compartment. Most of them were in the gray military uniform, officers and soldiers. There were several mullahs and women with children on board. A 4-year-old boy dozed on his mother's lap. A sun's ray lighted up a doll in the hands of a tiny girl leaning against her father's shoulder.... Captain Mahbub Shah unhurriedly passed down the rows, telling them not to worry, that they were coming in for a landing.

The aircraft began a turn. All of a sudden a powerful blow shook the multi-ton aircraft.

"Not a missile?" the thought pierced Colonel Tojmuhammad. As though to confirm his terrible suspicion, several red lights came on simultaneously on the instrument panel, including the signal: "Fire in the left engine nacelle." A moment later the alarmed voice of the flight engineer was heard in the throat microphones:

"First-line fire extinguishers not working...."

This happened over the village of Malang, 17 kilometers from Kabul. The terrain there is hard to get through and little populated. Mohammad Nabi Mohamedi, ringleader of the "Islamic Revolution Movement," at one time built one of his bandit dens in that area. The former mullah declared a "holy war" against the Afghan people. The path of the DIR bandits in the provinces of Ghazni, Paktia, Laghman and Kabul is strewn with bloody terror, terrible pogroms and devastation. These "fighters for the faith," most of whom are clergymen, deserters or criminals, are up to their elbows in blood. They are particularly cruel and treacherous.

In the summer of this year, units of the Afghan Army and the people's militia destroyed the main bandit formations of the "bloody mullah," as the people named Mohamedi. Some of them managed to escape across the border, where they

lick their wounds at training centers near Peshawar; others hid in the mountains. They crawl forth from their familiar lairs from time to time, however, to "earn" American dollars, destroying villages in which popular power has been established, killing party activists and shelling airliners. The dushman, coached by foreign military advisers, use Western weapons, including ground-to-air missiles, on these sallies.

It was learned later that a team with a portable ground-to-air missile system (PZRK), guarded by the band of a certain Sartur, had occupied Shahi-Barantai, a mountain which dominates the area. One of the air routes passes over this almost 3-kilometer-tall peak. The bandits knew this. They had hidden there and waited several days for an opportunity to destroy an air target. They hoped to pick up a bundle of money: the bandits' oversea benefactors pay them generous amounts of cash for a destroyed aircraft, the same as for a tank or a combat vehicle put out of action. When the transport plane appeared over the mountain that October evening, the dushman launched an American ground-to-air missile.

...The airmen were rooted to the spot for a moment, their eyes frozen on the commander. Colonel Tojmuhammad, who has an enormous amount of flight experience, understood at once that the struck aircraft could not remain in the air for long, that it was only a matter of seconds. The lives of the passengers and the crew would depend upon his actions, his conduct. He announced as calmly as possible over the aircraft intercom system:

"We're going to land."

Precise instructions followed, one after another: "Flight technician, switch off engine; use fire-extinguishing system." "Navigator, go to the passengers." "Co-pilot, report situation to DKP [air traffic control tower]."

The distress signal then went out over the air from on board the An-26:

"This is 098. Struck by missile. Left engine on fire. Altitude 6,100; distance 17. Request support for emergency landing!"

The air traffic control tower responded immediately:

"098, come in for landing by shortest route!..."

The flight operation officer watched the silvery dot on the radar screen, while simultaneously putting all airfield services into a state of combat readiness, and prepared for the emergency landing: he "dispersed" aircraft heading for the capital's airfield and placed on alert the helicopter crews of the search and rescue service, and the fire-fighting crews.

...Things were becoming tense in the air. All of the airborne aircraft and the airfield services listened with alarm to the terse reports from 098. There were not many. The crew had no time for talk. While the pilots, who had pushed the controls forward, continued the steep descent, the aircraft technician fought the fire, the airborne radio operator monitored the functioning of the electric power systems, and the navigator did everything possible to calm the passengers, to prevent panic on board.

At 16:32 ground once again heard the radio voice of 098: "Engine fire extinguished. Altitude 3500. Continuing to descend."

Everyone at the air traffic control tower breathed a sigh of relief. And Colonel Tojmuhammad took his eyes off the instrument panel for the first time during these fiery seconds. He saw the face of Senior Lieutenant Bakhrom, glistening with sweat, his back bowed from the tension. His acute concern for the fate of dozens of people had helped the young pilot to keep his self-control. His hands grasped the controls firmly. Now, physical strength was needed in addition to skill: the aircraft was vibrating and straining to lean over to the left. With an incredible effort, the pilots kept the aircraft from banking further.

Lacking power, with a destroyed left engine nacelle and riddled with shrapnel, the An-26 was still flying. How long could the struck aircraft stay up, however? How much time did the pilots have?

Colonel Tojmuhammad estimated that they would need to hold on another minute in order to reach the landing pattern. Just 60 seconds. He could land the aircraft from the landing straightaway, even if flames should flare up right there in the cockpit. I talked with him later, and he told me: "We were saved by the powerful structure of the An-26, which withstood the missile blast, and also by the lessons we learned from Lieutenant Colonel Vlasov, a Russian pilot."

Lieutenant Colonel V. Vlasov, military pilot 1st class and a Communist, is a welcome guest in the Afghan military air transport regiment. "Artist Vlasov," as he is called by the Afghan pilots, helps our friends to polish up their flying skill and improve their skills in piloting in the most difficult conditions. It was at his recommendation that the Afghan pilots learned, first on the ground and then in the air, to confidently fly the An-26 with one engine turned off and make a landing. At the request of the Afghan comrades, Valeriy Albertovich repeatedly "carried" the crews on training flights, where they practiced emergency situations. Observing his actions, the Afghan pilots learned the specifics of flying an aircraft in complex situations. Colonel Tojmuhammad and his crew were the first to master these difficult flights.

The aircraft clock showed 16:34 when Senior Lieutenant Bakhrom reported the last time to the flight operation officer: "The fire has flared up again, on the landing straightaway. We are taking steps to extinguish it."

The aircraft, engulfed in flames, approached the runway from the steep descent, almost diving. It was no longer just the engine which was on fire; the fuselage was burning. Like a meteorite, the aircraft swept in at great speed for the landing.

People here at Kabul Airport, recall that extraordinary, fiery landing very well. Several times, the aircraft's swift movement slowed for an instant, but it immediately leapt forward again like a spurred racehorse. It turned out that the brakes had failed after the aircraft had touched down: the fire had damaged the hydraulic braking system. The aircraft commander made the only correct decision for the situation: he taxied onto the dirt to lessen the speed.

The saved passengers leaped from the aircraft without waiting for the ramp to be set up. The crew and firefighters rushed to extinguish the raging fire.

...I met Colonel Tojmuhammad and his crew several days after that fiery landing. We talked a lot about the difficult flight, about the good flying features of Soviet aircraft, about those who hold the aircraft controls in their hands. We then went to the aircraft to take pictures.

Look at the photograph [photograph not reproduced]. The engine nacelle smashed by the blast, the torn wing covering, the fuel tanks riddled by shrapnel.... A plane with this kind of "enemy autograph" could only be landed by pilots who looked danger fearlessly in the face and fulfilled their duty to the end. And they are just that: literally the next day, the entire crew rose into the hot Afghan sky once again, left on another flight.

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END