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1 December 1983

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1817

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

POLITICAL OFFICER STRESSES NEED TO COMPILE, UTILIZE STATISTICS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Maj A. Markhay, deputy regimental commander for political affairs, Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District: "Ideological Work: Experience, Opinions: 'Talking' Figures"]

[Text] The conference with regimental political workers occurred during the days when we were receiving the next replacements.

"When you study the documents," I reminded the subunit political deputies, "don't forget to enter all data in the statistical record and we'll analyze them together later."

An officer from higher headquarters was present at the conference and when we were alone together he remarked:

"Let the staff handle the figures and all kinds of statistics. The political deputy has to work with people and not with papers."

I agreed with him of course that a live, direct impression of a person is the most important, but general statistics also mean a great deal. My companion merely grinned as if to say figures are only figures...

I recalled this conversation in preparing for the next party meeting. A sheet of statistical data was spread over the whole desk before me about the status of military discipline in all regimental subunits. If a person unarmed with the methodology of analysis were to look at this "sheet" the figures in the blocks would inform him of no more than symbols for notes can inform a person with no musical background.

But with appropriate attention thereto, figures naturally are capable of saying a great deal. They are capable of forcing the officer-indoctrinator to think, they often caution him against haste, at times they demand immediate actions, sometimes they place one on guard and they often also bring desired satisfaction. They contain an opportunity to analyze and precisely evaluate a particular process, to predict certain trends, to model one's work consistently, not in haste but in a well-conceived manner, and not drag behind events but anticipate them.

Take, for example, the column headed "Nationality." The June CPSU Central Committee Plenum emphasized that ideological work in our country, which unites over 100 nations and nationalities, is inconceivable without a careful study of their specific interests and features of national psychology and culture. In fact can, let's say, Sr Lt V. Ashikhmin, deputy company commander for political affairs, perform productive ideological indoctrination work without considering the fact that soldiers of 16 nationalities serve in the subunit? Of course not.

Or take the following example. Several non-Komsomol members came to serve in the company commanded by Capt G. Bordulev. What would seem to be so special about a few persons? But the fact is that this already is a certain portion of the personnel who, experience suggests, have their problems. That means special attention is needed for these persons.

...I recall well my first chat with Pvt S. Medvedev, the guardedness in his eyes and his mocking, condescending smile. Medvedev is an orphan. He has known work since childhood and independence came to him early, considerably earlier than the ability to use it. And so the lad made a lot of mistakes. Moreover, even in the subunit he continued to behave for some time as a person who had gained a little experience in life and who knew it not just from the outside. It is easy to imagine what influence he could have on young colleagues had he not been regarded with special attention and had the entire arsenal of indoctrinational influence not been used. Medvedev developed into a good specialist and by his example confirmed many times over that without constant and, I would say, targeted efforts in indoctrinational work with "difficult persons" it is hardly possible to achieve success.

Or take the column headed "Family Status." If the commander or political officer doesn't know how many married or bachelor privates there are in the subunit, which of the married men have children, who grew up without a father or mother and who was the only child in the family, he may become a creator of curiosities and mistakes with his first steps. Our regiment now has 12 privates who grew up without parents and almost every seventh one was the only child in the family. Is it really possible to approach both with the same yardstick? The former as a rule are independent people who need no coddling and are able to live in the collective and, at the same time, they are easily offended. The latter have become accustomed to constant attention and immediate satisfaction of all desires. The sharp break in these habits has an immediate effect on their conduct.

The psychology of a married soldier, especially the father of a family, differs sharply from that of the bachelor. If a young lad got married before call-up to the Army then with all else being equal he has a heap of additional concerns and worries...

We had the following incident. Pvt Sh. Valeyev received a troubling letter from his wife. It can't be said that Valeyev is distinguished by his example but the commander and deputy commander for political affairs of the artillery battalion persuaded the regimental commander that Valeyev had to be sent home. It was gratifying that the soldier valued this attitude toward him. On

returning from the short leave for family circumstances he worked on himself and the mastery of a combat specialty with special diligence. He soon became outstanding.

Figures from the column "Education" contain a large information load. If a person was called into the Army after completing a university it is clear that he is older, is able to think and make decisions independently, is accustomed to working with books and has a broad political outlook and possibly even certain experience in participating in political indoctrination work. This definitely has to be used.

I recall once inspecting the guard service at night. In making the rounds of the posts I sat down to smoke with Sgt S. Stal'noy and we began talking. He completed a pedagogic institute before being called into the Army and while we were chatting he expressed many interesting wishes and pieces of advice on improving indoctrinational work in the subunit and unit. We embodied much of what I heard then in practice with benefit to the work.

And here are other specific points on which figures from that same column tell the experienced person much.

As of today more than half the privates in Sr Lt A. Kuznetsov's company are graduates of vocational-technical schools. There are almost half in Capt N. Strashko's air defense battery. As a rule they don't feel the change in their lives as acutely after call-up into the Army. At the same time, when as many are assembled in one subunit as with Kuznetsov and Strashko they try, albeit not always in a reasoned manner, to use certain unwritten rules here which it was considered almost valorous to follow at the PTU [vocational-technical school]. Feeling themselves to be more experienced and skilled in collective relationships, some of them at times try to establish their leadership by forms which are far from regulation. This is not difficult to prevent if such a trend is anticipated.

Soldiers with a secondary technical education are for the most part in love with the equipment. We try to take advantage of their knowledge with maximum return and we try to develop their inclinations to be of benefit to the work. This produces a high effect. Privates A. Gurenko and I. Vishnyakov quickly mastered the tank and proved that they are capable of operating it competently and skillfully. Both were awarded medals. When Mar SU V. Petrov, CIC of the Ground Forces, chatted with them the tankmen told knowledgeably about features of operating the tank and expressed suggestions on improving individual components of the vehicle to the designer who was present at the conversation.

Statistics help us not just in things concerning military indoctrination. We drew up a special checklist for quality of conducting political classes which contains 22 points or questions which the inspector must answer. One checklist provides food for thought, but when several of them indicate the same deficiencies in various groups, a certain trend can be perceived.

After one of the inspections almost all control sheets contained an entry to the effect that political study group instructors were poorly tying in the

subject material with current tasks. The conclusion was that a miscalculation had been made in the methodology of holding seminars with political study group instructors and appropriate steps had to be taken urgently.

Or here's another example. Almost all inspectors remarked that lesson plans were drawn up formally for appearance and that the instructors hardly used them. A more detailed analysis showed that this was occurring not at all through the laziness of group instructors as we thought. The conviction had appeared lately that a lesson plan hinders lively contact with people and they were taking it to classes as a decoy.

Everyone is familiar with the form for recording fulfillment of socialist pledges by officers. We fill it out not only with the figures which reflect correspondence of grades to the pledges made. For example, the column on class rating contains every hour an officer spends at the control of a tank, each subject practiced in command training classes and each firing. In particular, an analysis of performance of firings by officers of one of the directorates showed that an inability to hit a moving target was hidden by the overall high result. At once an important direction of upcoming work appeared both for the staff and for the party organization.

Just why is a cool attitude toward statistics observed at times? I believe one of the reasons to lie in the absence of a scientific approach to their analysis. Everyone of course can show initiative and come up on his own with a format and methodology for collecting and studying statistics, but life persistently suggests that precise scientific recommendations are needed in this matter. Understanding the truth by the trial-and-error method is not the shortest path to success.

How much time and how many words we spent accustoming soldiers to saving every drop of fuel, but frankly speaking the effect from these efforts was not always high enough. But when we carefully analyze how much fuel is expended by a tankman who knows the tank to perfection and by one who doesn't have high qualifications we immediately realize the way in which we have to struggle for effective fuel economy.

Of course there is little benefit from figures entered in various records and report forms which later gather dust in tightly bound folders. One has to work constantly with figures: analyze and comprehend them and think about what is hidden behind them.

I will emphasize once again that figures are not there for the sake of figures; they are an important help in lively individual work with people.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Disposition of Personnel, Disciplinary Problems

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by editorial staff: "Measures Taken According to Signals From Readers"]

[Text] Officer S. Fedotov addressed this request to the editorial staff: "Six months have passed since I arrived at my duty post. Time is passing and, in spite of inquiries, my personal records are not being forwarded from my previous unit. Help me to stop this prolonged red tape."

/The personnel administration of the Pacific Ocean Fleet checked the facts stated in the letter. Captain 1st Rank V. Kozlov, chief of the administration, reported that the late dispatch of Officer S. Fedotov's personal records occurred through the fault of the unit's chief of staff Senior Lieutenant V. Lukashenko's not discharging his duty, and he was punished in a disciplinary manner for that. The personal records of the letter's author were forwarded as prescribed./

S. Leonidov from the city of Lutugino in Voroshilovgrad Oblast complained about the workers of the local rayon military commissariat who are not attentively concerned with the requests and applications of visitors. He writes: "For almost a month I have tried to register for the military. I go to the military commissariat and everything is for nothing. Every time they tell me: 'Come back tomorrow.'"

/The editorial staff addressed this letter to Major General Yu. Sapozhenkov, the military commissar in Voroshilovgrad Oblast. In the reply which was received it said that the facts took place. Major I. Rudenko, section chief of the Lutugino rayon military commissariat was punished in a disciplinary manner for neglect in performing his service duties. S. Leonidov was accepted for the military register and is set for work./

N. Grosu, a military serviceman who was transferred to the reserve, wrote to us that for a long time documents have not been forwarded from the unit where he spent his term of service, and that they are necessary for entering the preparatory department of Kishinev Polytechnical Institute.

/The senior commander to whom the letter was sent reported to the editorial staff that the necessary certificate of qualification and duty performance report for N. Grosu were forwarded to the rector of the institute./

In a letter received at the editorial office it talks about breaches of financial and economic discipline in a construction company where Senior Lieutenant V. Piskarev is the commander. The facts of bending disciplinary practice were mentioned.

/The editorial office sent the letter for examination to the political department of the military construction administration in Moscow. Colonel R. Yenyutin, chief of the political department, reported that the facts stated in the letter are confirmed. The company commander Senior Lieutenant V. Piskarev committed instances of rudeness with respect to subordinates, violated the procedure for paying money allowances to military construction workers, and used his official position for mercenary motives. At the present time he was suspended from the post which he was holding and expelled from CPSU membership.

Meetings of the officers staff were conducted in the construction subunits (podrazdeleniye) of the administration, and at which the conduct of Senior Lieutenant V. Piskarev received a principled evaluation and discussion./

Press Material Stresses Discipline

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by unknown author: "Strengthen Discipline and Organization"]

[Text] On 11 August a press review was published in the newspaper under a headline like that one. The work of the editorial collective of the Carpathian Military District newspaper "SLAVA RODINY" was analysed in it and treated on its pages questions of the campaign for strengthening military discipline and organization in units and subunits of the district.

Colonel B. Chistov, editor of the newspaper "SLAVA RODINY," informed "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" that the press review was studied and discussed in the collective of journalists and a special topic meeting was devoted to it.

With the aim of eliminating defects which were pointed out in the review, actual subjects were included in the current work plans of the editorial staff for shedding some light on the activities of commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations directed towards strengthening discipline and organization. A new heading is being introduced under which materials will be published on propagandizing the requirements of the oath and regulations. Authored materials were prepared and are being published on the service of young officers and the work of sergeants in providing rigid regulation order in military collectives.

Reserve Officer Wins Admission to Institute

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by unknown author: "It is Necessary to Observe Laws"]

[Text] In a military publicist's column published on 7 August under a headline like that one, it talked about how Reserve Warrant Officer I. Sadykov was denied without grounds the right to enter a VUZ noncompetitively. V. Naymushin, rector of the Ul'yanovsk State Pedagogical Institute imeni I. N. Ul'yanov, responded to publication of the newspaper. He reported that by the time of student enrollment I. Sadykov had not presented evidence from the military commissariat of his right to privileges. After the paper was published the RSFSR Ministry of Education allotted personally an additional place for him. Reserve Warrant Officer I. Sadykov became a student at the institute.

Veterans Discuss Gratitude, Concerns for Care

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Captain 2nd Rank P. Kuznetsov: "And They Say: 'Thank You'"]

[Text] They stood at the edge of the airfield and with pride scrutinized the surrounding combat aircraft which they were not accustomed to seeing. It was a pleasure for the veterans to see how this menacing machinery, obedient to the will of the pilots, swiftly departs into the clouds fully prepared for combat.

M. Karimov from Dnepropetrovsk writes to the editorial office: "During these minutes, we veterans of the unit, who were invited to its anniversary, felt dozens of years younger. We recalled the rigorous years of the war, our own aviation fighter regiment, the name of which the unit inherited, and we couldn't help but be happy that the matter of the armed defense of the Soviet motherland was passed on by us to strong hands. Meeting with people who are carefully keeping and augmenting the combat traditions of the frontline soldiers once again convinced us that the peaceful skies of the motherland are reliably protected. An enormous thank you to them for this. And another thank you for the sensitiveness and attention to us veterans, and the regard for our experience."

Letters of that kind are not a rarity in the editorial mail. The recent influx of them increased in particular when a meeting with veterans of the party, which took place in the CPSU Central Committee, represented a new recognition of the great services of the older generation of Soviet people to the motherland. In letters to "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA," readers thank the party for constant attention to who made the revolution and defended its achievements at the front during the civil war, who raised the country from ruin and laid the foundation for socialism, and who saved humanity from the fascist plague and built the developing socialist society.

Veterans of the party, labor, and the war are convinced that their word is considered and the experience amassed by them is organically connected with the

enthusiasm and gusto of young people, and they say thank you with all their heart and soul. In this recognition of theirs, a firm confidence is expressed in the fact that people, who are capable of properly continuing the matter which was begun, are standing in the ranks of the builders of communism and its armed protectors. Having visited this or some other military collective, every veteran feels the strong pulse of the bond of generations. And the youth, rubbing shoulders with the older people, are certainly infected by their purposefulness and they adopt the competition of the heroic past. G. Karaseva from Astrakhan', who took part in the battle of Stalingrad, writes about this. She says: "Everyone was a soldier in our family. My grandfather fought at the front during the civil war and my father and I passed the test of lead during the Great Patriotic War. My son served honorably during peacetime. And now here's my grandson in a military uniform. Recently I visited the unit where they are teaching him the profession of protecting the motherland. I was met in a friendly manner here. I was invited to attend a military oath ceremony. And before me stood the regimental colors, the ones in front of which we young signal troops in the terrible year of 1941 swore not to spare our very life in crushing the hated enemy. Of course, we should wish our successors to the combat colors a good journey in military improvement! It has good commanders. They are considerate, strict, and impartial in a fatherly manner. I saw this. My grandson stated to me that any test is within their power. Earthly compliments to them."

The letters of Reserve Lieutenant Colonel N. Novoselov from the city of Novozybkov in Bryansk Oblast; V. Manukyan, a worker at the Ayrum station in the Armenian SSR; F. Mishchenko from Kaliningrad; L. Bopp from the city of Ivanteyevka in Moscow Oblast; and many others contain warm, heartfelt words of thanks to the commanders and political workers of the army and the navy for the education and training of the skillful protectors of the motherland and for the school of courage, hard work, and high morals.

Having performed his constitutional duty with honor, he transfers to the military reserve. But even in the reserve he values his contact with his own unit or ship. Reserve Lieutenant Colonel I. Fedyurkin from Pinsk has been living up to now through the deeds and concerns of his former colleagues. We read in his letter: "I have been on a well-deserved rest for eight years. However, I feel that I'm in military service just as before. For this reason, how is it that I can't recall an occasion when officers A. Burenkov, Yu. Sholomyanskiy, and other brother-officers didn't send me best wishes on the unit's anniversary and weren't interested in the state of my health."

And here is a letter from a special pensioner A. Dneprova from Moscow. For 40 long years she and her children, and then her grandchildren too, looked for the grave of her husband, battalion commissar F. Dneprov, who was killed at the front. Many people came to assist her and all of them simply can't be enumerated here. At times it seemed that it was all over and the thread of glimmering hope had broken. But again and again faith was strengthened once and for all in the saying: nobody forgets and nothing is forgotten. And now a monument to the courageous commissar stands in the city of Malaya Vishera and at the battle for which he died the death of the brave. In their letters, G. Fayzullin and V. Fayzullina from Salavat, A. Konopatskaya from Moscow, and M. Dikovenko from Gukovo mention examples of such considerate concern at times even from

unknown people in search of the burial places of relatives and friends who were killed at the front.

Sympathy, goodwill, and a readiness always to come to one's aid--this is not the evidence of socialist civility which was spoken about at the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee as the great achievement of our society. Letters to the editorial office reflect the great spiritual intimacy of the Soviet people who have found in socialist civility the inexhaustible, life-giving source of invincible and unbending strength and of labor activity and courage.

M. Dolgiy, a disabled veteran of the Great Patriotic War from the village of Grishino in Donetsk Oblast, writes: "Soviet doctors and nurses kept us from dying after being seriously wounded. Protecting our health, they don't pity themselves today either. A big soldier's thanks to N. Zezyulina, R. Mel'nik, V. Zaretska, and the other medical workers at the disabled veterans hospital in the city of Makeyevka for their kindness and humaneness." M. Mironenko from Ivanovo, the Muscovite Kh. Khisyamov, and many other readers of "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA" in their letters told how the military surgical officers V. Trofimenko, V. Volkov, P. Kravchenko, and V. Flekkel' did a great deal to restore their ability to work. A survivor R. Oppo from the city of Rakvere in the Estonian SSR shared in his letter: "They saved my life at the hospital and put me on my feet. Now I will again be able to be useful to the motherland."

But in the editorial mail one comes across such letters in which they talk about cases of indifference and a bureaucratic attitude towards people and their needs. For example, doesn't the "reply" to the letter of disabled war veteran K. Zakuskin from the workers of the Pyatigorsk city military commissariat really speak about this? Having left every jot and tittle in it on the conscience of the authors, we'll mention only one sentence from this "reply:" "There is a simple truth that he who works or takes part in community affairs receives both gratitude and thanks, but if a person doesn't get out of the house and doesn't participate anywhere, just who's suppose to know what the person wants and what there is to thank him for."

Of course, the instances are rare in our country when hollow, cold indifference is shown towards honored people. They don't forget to invite veterans to ceremonial meetings and to wish them a happy birthday, and they sharpen the attention of local party and Soviet organs and production collectives to their needs and troubles. Let's read carefully in the troubled letter of war veteran A. Lisitsyna from Chirkent: "A motherly thank you to the officers of our city military commissariat. They found my decorations. What's there to say about myself? I went to the front voluntarily as a nurse. I was both frostbitten and shellshocked. And I didn't expect a decoration for this. Like everyone else, I did my dangerous but essential job in the war. And the motherland didn't forget anyone. If you could have seen how the eyes of my granddaughters and grandsons shone with joy when their grandmother was honored. I looked into these eyes and understood: Soviet children are growing up to be true patriots."

Letters which at first sight are distinguished by the conspicuous and simple, but capacious word "thank you!" come again and again to the editorial office. Let these words be heard more often in the various languages of our multinational

motherland. In fact, in the best way possible it underscores the fine tradition of social civility which joins in itself the high consciousness, customs and mores, and conduct of people in a society of mature socialism.

Units Constructed Without Proper Documentation

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by unknown author: "Crane, Plan, and Foundation Pit"]

[Text] In the feuilleton of Colonel A. Drovosekov published on 25 June under a heading like that one, it told about several cases of constructing units without proper design documentation. Owing to poor supervision of the course of operations and fulfillment of the decisions which were made, the construction periods significantly exceeded the standard ones.

Engineer-Lieutenant General N. Likhanin, first deputy chief of the main billeting and maintenance administration of the USSR Ministry of Defense, informed the editorial office that the speech in the newspaper was discussed with the management of major construction and it was recognized as correct. Erection of the unit at the enterprise, where Engineer-Colonel I. Oleynikov is the chief, really began without technical documentation for the affected engineering networks. Engineer-Colonel Kireyev, the former chief of the technical department, was guilty of this and was transferred to the reserve. Designing the engineering networks is projected to be completed in 1984.

In the reply sent to the editorial office by Engineer-Major General Yu. Komarov, it says that the feuilleton was discussed in political departments, at meetings of party committees, and in the collectives of military-construction organizations. The cases mentioned in it are factual.

Because the engineering networks were not prepared (the organization conducting these operations is not subordinate to Comrade Yu. Komarov), the apartment house consisting of 120 apartments, which is talked about in the feuilleton, did not become operational in the second quarter of this year as projected. Completion of the apartment house was postponed until the third quarter. Arrangements were made to put into operation the paint and varnish shop of the "Voyenokhot" plant during the third quarter and the administrative building of the central council of the military hunting society during the fourth quarter of the current year.

The necessity for reinforcing supervision in fulfilling the orders being given and the decisions which were made was pointed out to Engineer-Colonels A. Litvinenko and V. Lazarevich.

9889

CSO: 1801/015

ARMED FORCES

OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING TROOP EXCELLENCE

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 83 p 1

[Article, "To the Detriment of Quality," by Lieutenant Colonel V. Orishchenko, Order of the Red Banner Siberian Military District]

[Text] I am well acquainted with the missile units commanded by the officers N. Shevchenko and V. Gorbachev. These are friendly, cohesive military collectives, distinguished by rather high military training, coordination, and the skill to solve correctly military training tasks.

Recently I had occasion to be at a tactical exercise in which both subunits participated. The missileers acted with initiative and diligence; however, not a single subunit succeeded in attaining excellent results although they had every opportunity for this. What hampered it? In my view, an indifferent attitude of several officers, to the demands of the instructions and directions regulating the utilization of military equipment, hampered it. In other words, the missileers did not always carry out their functional responsibilities accurately. It is known, strange as it may seem, that this was done with the goal to attain the highest results, to make a brilliant show of records in accomplishing the operations.

Of course the ability, in a short time limit, to prepare the equipment for military employment and to accomplish the given tasks is one of the most important factors for the missileers. But it is only in that compulsory condition, along with a high level of training of specialist, that high quality of accomplishment of all operations and most precise observation of the instructional demands of organizing military work are provided. First of all it applies to the officers--the immediate organizers for accomplishing the given tasks.

Unfortunately, somewhere they forget about that, and most frequently of all--in a period of a controlled exercise or tactical training when the subunits' preparedness level is being evaluated, and the course of fulfilling the socialist obligation is being verified. In pursuit of higher points, several officers tried to "condense" the time for fulfilling the norms to the maximum limits, and first of all at the expense of lowering the quality of work, weakening the control for fulfilling the operations on the equipment.

The course of their reasoning is roughly this: They say nothing in particular will happen if several small operations are not verified, and in return time can be saved to demonstrate the highest tempo to the examiners. The fact that during this the preparedness quality of the equipment is lowered, and in the final result the effectiveness of its use, usually is not taken into consideration. There is something else which is also not taken into consideration: the fighting men in such an approach are resigned to simplification and indulgence, they begin to act carelessly or unnecessarily self-confident at the work places. And this, as a rule, turns into gross mistakes.

This is exactly what happened on the tactical exercises mentioned. In fulfilling one of the tasks, the subordinates of officer Shevchenko bettered the time norm by far, but received only a satisfactory evaluation.

"I want to fulfill the norm as quickly as possible," announced Senior Lieutenant Yu. Borets, permitting a gross miscalculation.

Because of the lack of quality in fulfilling the operation and the absence of the necessary control, the subordinates of Senior Lieutenant V. Rasporov and Captain A. Kostikov permitted miscalculations.

There were other deficiencies in the exercise, associated with the careless fulfilling of functional responsibilities of several specialists. All this did not offer the missileers the possibility to achieve high results.

It is all the more annoying, in that the readiness level of the specialists is considerably high and they could lay claim realistically for excellent evaluations.

For the sake of justice, it is necessary to note that the subordinates of officer Gorbachev acted more efficiently, in harmony, and allowed fewer miscalculations. And it isn't a matter of a difference in training specialists (the difference is immaterial), but in the fact that in this subunit, the culture itself of technical fulfilling tasks and norms is higher.

Unfortunately, in evaluating the training of subunits, we staff officers pay little attention to that side of matters. And that is the element of scientific organization of military work.

After training a thorough discussion was held with the commanders of both subunits. All the pluses and minuses in the missileers actions were analyzed. Officers Shevchenko and Gorbachev must be given their due. They self-critically and according to the party, evaluated the results of the military work of their subordinates and openly recognized that in the past, on their part, control of the quality of exercises and training was weak.

"We will study our mistakes and without fail correct them immediately," the officers firmly assured us.

It is really necessary, it is known, to correct a matter immediately. Not the concluding session, but obligations both subunits hold high. So much a greater urgency and effort is demanded now of every missileer.

12198

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ARMED FORCES

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS IGNORED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Major Yu. Shichanin, chief of garrison VAI (Military Motor Vehicle Inspection), Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Driver-Violators -- Or Why the Separate Airfield Technical Support Battalion (OBATO) Is Not Struggling Against Traffic Violations"]

[Text] "Bah! All the faces are the same," exclaimed VAI inspector Warrant Officer V. Kraft, seeing Private S. Khatamov in the cab of the vehicle he had detained. Having taken up the post of military vehicle inspector he had occasion to say these words repeatedly. During the course of a day Kraft frequently stopped vehicles of military units, and it often turned out that he had seen the driver before.

Thus, Private Khatamov, who on that day had exceeded the speed limit, was "caught" by Warrant Officer Kraft for the fourth time. Here was truly a "violinist with a record," as the VAI inspector spoke of the soldier. And unfortunately such "violinists with records" are not all that uncommon.

Why is this so? The answer turned out to be simple. It was enough to glance at the list of traffic violators to notice that all were from the very same units and sub-units. Most frequently found were the names of soldiers from OBATO, where Major G. Leont'yev was chief of vehicle service.

There is no need to say how important it is for drivers to observe the regulations governing traffic and vehicle maintenance. The efforts of all those responsible for the vehicle service must be so directed. Is this being done in the battalion? No. But see for yourself.

Strange, isn't it, that here they close their eyes to the fact that there is no area for the chief of the KTP (Technical Control Point) to check the condition of vehicles entering service. Documentation by the vehicle park duty NCO is maintained in a careless manner. The battalion has also become resigned to the fact that repair of the drivers' instruction classroom and the old vehicles has dragged out too long, and the residence of the KTP chief has been turned into a construction material warehouse.

In the end all of this negatively affects the training and education of military drivers. In recent months alone drivers from OBATO have been detained

several times each at the VAI post. Were conclusions drawn from this? Were any measures taken against the violators? Unfortunately, again I must say no.

Frequently the garrison VAI receives extracts from the order of the OBATO commander where it is written in black and white that traffic violators have been disciplined. But upon checking it became clear that the extracts are fictitious -- no one punished the guilty parties. Judging by the abundance of these, to be frank, false reports, people here have become quite expert in their preparation. Moreover, whereas previously only the soldiers figured in the "faked" documents, recently officers' names have also appeared.

Once a VAI inspector detained a vehicle for such a violation in which Captain V. Glinskiy was involved as senior occupant. And as he was involved a response was required. Soon an extract reached the VAI which reported that Captain Glinskiy had been disciplined as required. In fact it turned out that no punishment had been imposed. Doesn't just such impunity result in the situation here in which "violators with records" have not been eliminated?

As is well known, the manuals require that soldiers who use alcohol when driving must be removed from driving for their entire term of service. Everyone in the battalion knows about the weakness for drink of Private M. Skorobogat'ko. However, this soldier and several others are still driving.

So it turns out that instead of becoming more involved in educating personnel and being more demanding with violators, here the doubtful path of indulging them was chosen. And from such, permit me to say, "work," the battalion will not rid itself of such violators.

9069

CSO: 1801/034

ARMED FORCES

ABILITY TO WORK WITH PEOPLE STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Capt Engr V. Khorenko, Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military District: "Transition"]

[Text] His examination of the assembly was in no way comforting. As Sr Lt Yu. Nishnulkin had assumed, serious repairs were necessary. It also became clear that the malfunction which had arisen was the fault of poor quality maintenance of the assembly.

Nishnulkin checked the documentation and immediately established that preventive maintenance had been conducted by Private Kharitonov and supervised by Lt A. Silant'yev. The first thing that Nishnulkin thought about was punishing Silant'yev. For this was not the first instance in which the lieutenant had been slipshod in his work.

Nishnulkin took off the assembly, placed it on the table and turned on the soldering iron. He was quieted by the customary work, which he had loved since his childhood. And he began to think differently, without the former irritation, about Lieutenant Silant'yev. As they say, it is never too late for punishment, but it is now far more important to understand why the young officer works listlessly.

Recently, on his way to the technical building, he suddenly heard the displeased voice of the sub-unit commander, reaching him from the equipment room through the open window. Nishulkin's good mood (he had just conducted a political information lecture and was satisfied that the soldiers had been greatly interested) immediately disappeared. As soon as he appeared at the doorway, the sub-unit commander said dryly:

"Deal with your subordinates, Comrade Senior Lieutenant. Report to me on the measures you have taken." And he left.

Lieutenant Silant'yev was standing in the equipment room, shifting from one leg to the other. He shrugged his shoulders in answer to Nishnulkin's questioning look.

"I don't know why I caught it from the commander. Am I supposed to put this place in order? There is a duty man. Let them talk to him."

Nishnulkin understood. The sub-unit commander had scolded the lieutenant for the disorder in the equipment room. And he did not do so without reason; the place was truly in disarray.

"But, you see, the duty man is your subordinate," said Nishnulkin. "You have to be demanding of him."

"I have very many other concerns," answered Silant'yev. "I am an engineer, and must think first about the equipment."

"No," exclaimed Nishnulkin, "you are first of all an officer and must think about how to work better with people. Then there also will be no problems with the equipment."

Silant'yev answered with an outburst of temper: "What sort of an officer do they want to make me? I am a two-year man, Comrade Senior Lieutenant."

What is happening to Lieutenant Silant'yev? Very recently he had shared his plans for the future with Nishnulkin. He said he wanted to stay in the army. And now in his conduct and attitude toward his work there seems to be some sort of challenge. Perhaps someone inadvertently offended him, offended his self-esteem. Such things happen. A young officer hears an uncomplimentary remark about himself and, rather than disproving it through his actions, he throws up his hands.

Nishnulkin had experienced something similar. He, like Silant'yev, was called up from the reserves after finishing the institute. He did not arrive at his decision to remain in the army immediately. "I will serve my time," he thought, "and go home." He felt even more strongly this way after a particular incident. Once he entered the radio classroom and saw that it was unusually animated. The officers were shaking up the contents of the drawers and examining the shelves.

"It is not here and won't be, don't look for it," said Lieutenant Yu. Lukashin.

"What's with you," smiled Nishnulkin, "did you lose a signal?"

"Knock off your jokes!" Lukashin angrily shined his glasses. "The analyzer is gone and you..."

From the other end of the classroom someone said sarcastically: "Here is the one who attached temporary legs to the analyzer; there is no one else. He is a radio lover, you see."

Nishnulkin choked with resentment. He understood who they were alluding to.

The next day the analyzer was found. It turned out that the station chief had turned it in to be checked and forgot to tell his co-workers about it. But for a long time Nishnulkin could still not calm down. Moreover, a string of failures and punishments began. "All right," he thought, calming himself, "I will survive the first year somehow, and then there will be the mid-point date, beyond which I will already be able to see the valley of my past civilian life."

Of course the mood with which he came to work was not hidden from the eyes of the sub-unit commander or his co-workers. Once after completing an important mission he was returning home with Lieutenant Lukashin. Their conversation touched upon the ill-fated analyzer. "Don't feel bad," said Lukashin, "we were all very vexed then and made up a lot of tales..." Nishnulkin's heart was warmed.

Later he began to notice that the sub-unit commander entrusted him with the most difficult missions. And everything somehow turned out so that he was constantly in close contact with people. He uncovered something new in them, and suddenly discovered qualities in himself which he had earlier not suspected.

He could never forget how one evening, as he was already preparing to go home, his deputy approached him: "The men are awaiting you, Comrade Lieutenant." It turned out that after viewing the "Vremya" program the soldiers had questions and decided to discuss them with their commander. What words these were! "The men are awaiting you." He had made entirely different plans for that evening, and all day had been thinking that nothing must happen to upset those plans. But now he hears that the men are awaiting him, Lieutenant Nishnulkin, and what could be more important than this?

That evening his conversation with the troops was, as they say, from the heart. Later he did not even notice how keen and engrossed in his work with people he had become. It seemed as if his days had doubled in length and there was still not enough time to do everything he had planned. But he gradually learned to properly plan his work day and rely on his sergeants and the Komsomol activists, and then he was able to do everything. The first commendation which the sub-unit commander awarded him for his able training of his subordinates.

He reached his service mid-point date. And here was the very same valley, and his native Volga glistened like a blue tape beneath the wing of the airplane as he was returning from leave. But strangely his former life no longer beckoned him as it had before. Earlier the constant concerns of a missile officer frightened him: the constant alert duty; preparing for and conducting exercises; servicing equipment. But now he thought: what would it be like without them? After another 6 months he had no more doubts. "I will stay in the army," he decided firmly.

Nishnulkin had to set aside his work on the malfunctioning assembly--the time for the staff meeting had come. Striding along the concrete walkway he thought that he should have ordered Lieutenant Silant'yev to repair the assembly upon

his return from training. He would not think to do it himself. Or rather would simply not trouble himself. Silant'yev seemed to be approaching the same transition which he in his day had made. But he did not make it alone. He had his commander and his service comrades. They did not let him fail.

But had Silant'yev always received such support? He had to admit, not always. Here he, Nishnulkin, had also fallen short.

Returning from the headquarters, Nishnulkin saw Lieutenant Silant'yev at the doorway to the equipment room. Silant'yev walked over to him.

"Comrade Senior Lieutenant, the malfunction has been eliminated and the equipment functions normally."

"How? Already? Nishnulkin was surprised because he knew that a lot still had to be done with the equipment. 'Tell me how you were able to accomplish this work by yourself in such a short time.'"

"But I was not alone, Comrade Senior Lieutenant. Here are my assistants," he motioned toward the open door to the equipment room.

Private Kharitonov and several other soldiers were in the room.

"All of us here had something of a hands-on lesson," said Silant'yev, "so that in the future no such gaps in our maintenance occur."

The lieutenant said "in the future" and "ours." That means he is not indifferent to what happens in the collective. And as concerns the transition point, they would make it together.

Senior Lieutenant Nishnulkin thought about this before releasing the soldiers, and he invited Silant'yev into the classroom: "We need to have a talk..."

9069

CSO: 1801/34

ARMED FORCES

MORAL ISSUES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent Col A. Khorev: "On the Subject of Morality: No Better Off Than at the Start"]

[Text] Any human ailment begins with some small, invisible change in the body. Moral degradation probably begins with the very same, only in the heart and the awareness. When and where does the turning point appear in the development from the norm to an anomaly? If one could catch this moment in time it would be possible, as the people say, to spread some straw. Alas, it is far from always that we will be able to do this. We don't even see the obvious changes at times. The rush to help then is outstripped by the fall, and it remains for everyone merely to sigh and moan: How did we overlook this? How was it we didn't notice it? Those are just the kinds of sighs and moans that are being heard in one of the garrisons of the Moscow Air Defense District, as well as in this district's military-medical service and political department. Col Med Serv Aleksandr Grigor'yevich Zhuravel', chief of the garrison hospital, provided a more than substantial and sorry cause for this.

Many are inclined to believe that the first steps to the broken trough,* where he is today, were made by him quite long ago. In any case it was long before his appointment to the position which became the last in his officer career, because it was somehow so very easily and customarily that he began his personal aggrandizement in this position.

A small detached house on the hospital grounds caught his fancy and without long reflection he occupied it. The optimists assumed that this was for a short time until he received an apartment, but the three-room apartment soon was received and the detached house was not vacated. To the contrary, work on further improvements began in it. And so Zhuravel' lived for several years in this detached house with his family, using hospital furniture, refrigerator, television set, bedding and a vacuum cleaner, and naturally the natural gas and electricity. For all this he paid 2 rubles 30 kopecks a month. It is interesting that the physician who lived in this very house earlier paid ten times more rent for it, and he didn't use furniture, television set or other hospital articles. Just how did this symbolic rent of

*Russian saying meaning to be no better off than when one started.

2 rubles 30 kopecks arise? It turns out that from the time Aleksandr Grigor'yevich settled in it the detached house began to be considered a dormitory.

To be sure, one senses an experienced hand in this refined act and as a matter of fact Zhuravel' apparently has more than enough of such experience. He was chief of a small hospital back in 1967-1974. At that time he showed himself to be not only a rather good organizer, but also a vigorous schemer. He ended up with a party punishment for abuse of official position, but this, alas, didn't hinder him from being assigned to the position of chief of medical service of a combined unit [soyedineniye] and later chief of a hospital.

It is curious as to how, according to Zhuravel', he was relieved of the party punishment. He didn't submit a petition and no hearing was given him about how he was correcting mistakes for which he was held answerable. After about a half-year the punishment simply was declared removed...

While simulating bustling activity in the calling of public health, Zhuravel' concentrated his real efforts on gradually but steadily laying his hands on public property. For example, the hospital received a new engine for a Volga automobile and Zhuravel' installed it in his own Volga after first removing the serial number and stamping out another one. He subsequently replaced many other parts in his personal vehicle with spare parts stolen from the hospital and blithely sent it off to his father in the Ukraine while he bought a new Volga for himself.

The crown and end of the enterprising work by Zhuravel' was the construction of a fashionable villa on the Istra Reservoir. Over a period of several years a three-story stone-and-brick house was erected with a garage, sauna, swimming pool and heating system. A 25 x 30 m pond about two meters deep was dug near the house. Running water from a diversion canal was led into it. Hundreds of cubic meters of soil, peat and sand were brought in to level off this plot. The villa was finished with scarce materials--oak, ash and decorative tile--and insulated with pressed slag cotton. Hospital workers--carpenters, fitters, electricians and sanitary engineers--were used for building the dacha during duty and off-duty hours. Varied equipment was used: motor vehicles, cranes and bulldozers assigned from the garrison and by directors of surrounding enterprises, usually free under the guise of assistance to the hospital. Much construction material also was obtained by illegal ways.

Zhuravel' was 50 years old and he celebrated his birthday in the unfinished dacha, in the workers' lounge with the hospital fitters, carpenters and electricians working there for him. They were drinking vodka. An intoxicated Zhuravel' became depressed and, raising his glass, he suddenly said in a somewhat pitiful and confused manner:

"Don't forget me lads..."

The lads didn't understand anything.

But soon Zhuravel' was called to the garrison military procurator's office and an investigation began which continues even today. Zhuravel' was expelled from the party, released from the Army and placed under arrest. Only then did it become clear to the workers why Zhuravel' was sad: Stormclouds were gathering over him.

Of course there was nothing surprising in this. Our society's iron principle was functioning and the inevitable retribution came for defying its legal and moral standards. But the workers, who had been under the corrupting influence of Zhuravel' for more than one year were surprised and disheartened by this. The fact is that during these years Zhuravel' had been able to hypnotize them with his invulnerability and omnipotence. On every convenient and inconvenient occasion he would hint transparently at his broad connections and boundless possibilities. All this might have been passed off as irresponsible bragging had it not been confirmed now and then by certain real, visible facts.

Vehicles with loads streamed to this plot as to a key construction site. In the presence of subordinates Zhuravel' at times would pick up the phone demonstrably and in a period of 2-3 minutes would solve some supply or other problem with which they had been struggling for weeks. Once when one of his associates complained of the crudity of Zhuravel' and the political officer began to speak with him about this, Zhuravel' tossed out carelessly:

"Ah, nonsense.... Are there really such complaints about me in Moscow?"

"How do you know what there are?" asked the political officer.

"My people inform me," responded Zhuravel' without batting an eye.

It is difficult to say whether he was speaking the truth or simply enhancing his reputation. That still has to be determined. But Zhuravel' forced more than the workers with whom he drank in the workers' lounge to believe in his power and inaccessibility.

"Everyone was afraid of him," said Col Med Serv V. Danilyuk, secretary of the hospital party organization. And after a silence he added: "I also was afraid."

Well, let's assume the secretary is exaggerating concerning "everyone." There were people in the collective who weren't afraid to speak their minds both about the level of professional competency of Zhuravel' and about his self-seeking ways. It is true that they felt more than uncomfortable here but the letters which exposed Zhuravel' went to various echelons and commissions traveled to the hospital in response to them. On returning they would report that the letter had not been confirmed.

For example, in the period from 6 through 8 January 1981 Col Med Serv I. Klimushin, the district's chief therapist, and Maj I. Sharko, political department propagandist, checked out a letter which stated that Zhuravel' was bringing in hospital workers subordinate to him to build a dacha, was using

illegally obtained construction materials, and so on. The inspectors did not confirm a single fact and recommended that Zhuravel' step up indoctrinational work among his coworkers to "preclude unhealthy sentiments and unjustified complaints."

Of course, it is no simple matter to check out the correctness of serious accusations in a two-day period. Zhuravel' had a folder with covering vouchers--bills, receipts and memoranda--which produced an almost magical effect on the amateurs. But it turns out that many of the documents were fake such as, for example, bills made out to the bearer and not coinciding with the nomenclature of articles Zhuravel' used at the construction site... It is perhaps a bit difficult for a physician and political officer to uncover such juggling. That's not their line. Their vital and noble job is to work with people, but this is just what they did least in the inspection. They had a look at the papers shoved at them in Zhuravel''s office, trampled around his dacha and counted the bricks. It is said that they also took a long while trying to figure out what arithmetic operation should be used to figure the amount of bricks in a pile--multiplication or addition... But had they become more closely acquainted with hospital workers they probably would have seen that much if not everything in the letter was the truth.

What a great moral damage to the job is done by just such amateur inspections. They not only objectively contribute to the establishment and flourishing of various kinds of usurers, but also undermine faith in justice, create an atmosphere of impunity and stifle people's civic activeness.

There was more than one such inspection in the history of Zhuravel''s machinations. Engr-Capt A. Ukolov arrived to inspect the fuel service in the hospital. He was greeted well here, put up in the detached house and fed appetizingly and free for five days. As a result he generated a very satisfactory statement... Sometime later Engr-Lt Col Yu. Medvedev made the very same audit at the representation of the procurator's office and he identified a large, above-norm expenditure of alcohol.

Along with all else the superficial inspections helped Zhuravel' himself to believe in his own impunity. Before everyone's eyes he threw away all restraint more and more. He would write prescriptions right and left with his own hand for scarce medicines. Not for everyone and his brother, of course, but only the "necessary people"--those from whom he could secure construction materials, vehicles and equipment for the dacha. He accepted people for inpatient treatment in the hospital with the very same goal. He would be asked to hospitalize, for example, an officer's wife and he would neither authorize it nor refuse right away. He would wait and see what could be gotten from this person. In these ways he would draw many into complicity with his machinations, among them officers V. Shironov, V. Tikhonov and V. Sychev. The latter, at that time a regimental commander, assigned dump trucks to Zhuravel' for transporting sand from a quarry to the dacha and he would "try to procure" tasol for adding to the dacha heating system. All this of course was gratis, i.e., in exchange for particular "services."

Those from whom there was nothing to take could wait with the hospitalization... Zhuravel' would recommend to hospital physicians to refrain entirely from findings about the advisability of inpatient treatment. He preferred to decide such questions personally. As a result the military hospital gradually began to be turned into a refuge for persons of a certain official profile. Restaurant and store workers, all kinds of smart dealers and suppliers were accommodated in comfortable luxury wards with telephone, refrigerator and color television set...

All this of course got out like a cat from a bag and struck everyone's eyes, but not an official was to be found either in the garrison or in the district who considered it his official and party duty to stop the undignified behavior of Zhuravel'. Immediate superiors were so far from this that at the very height of his scheming activities, when Zhuravel' was engaged basically in building his own dacha, the following praises were lavished on him in his performance appraisal:

"A disciplined and competent officer. Principled and exacting toward himself and subordinates. Doesn't lose his head in a difficult situation... Observes party principles in work and everyday life."

Maj Gen Med Serv S. Vartanov, chief of the district military medical service, visited the hospital, as did his predecessor Maj Gen Med Serv G. Pakulo, and had information about the abuses of Zhuravel' but didn't take effective steps. The political department took an inadmissibly superficial position for long years. Many in the district were enchanted by the economic enterprise of Zhuravel' and didn't see its kulak essence. They also didn't discern the callousness of Zhuravel', a trait absolutely incompatible with the high calling of physician.

It turned out there also was no one in the hospital collective to hold back the presumptuous Zhuravel' in a comradely manner. He had no real friends, only "necessary people." He ignored the timid voices of some colleagues. At his own admission the party organization secretary was afraid of Zhuravel'. Political officer Lt Col A. Pichugin and Col Med Serv I. Dzhagupov, chief of medical service, also proved to have weak character.

There is one other interested person whose position in this matter cannot, it would appear, be ignored. This is the wife of Zhuravel', Irina Ivanovna Ingul'skaya. She is a physician who worked pluralistically at the hospital. Could she not help but see how her husband was being engulfed in the quagmire of moneygrubbing or not know about his abuses? She of course knew, if not about all of them. Then why didn't she rebel?

I wanted to speak with Ingul'skaya but she evaded the conversation, referring to not feeling well. Her appearance really was depressed and unhealthy.

"There's nothing good to say and she doesn't want to say anything bad," said Lt Col Justice N. Belyayev, who is conducting the investigation in her husband's case, commenting on her refusal.

Zhuravel' has two adult daughters. I shouldn't wonder that now they also don't know where to look out of shame for their father. Zhuravel's elderly parents died recently one after the other, shaken by his drama. The question arises of itself: Just whom did he make happy with his mansions and automobiles?

"What can I wish you in parting?" I asked Zhuravel' at the conclusion of the talk with him in the investigation isolation room. Downcast, gray and unshaven, he responded dully:

"Freedom."

Perhaps the reappraisal of values has begun and a process of purification is going on.

It has to be assumed that after appropriate steps this beneficial process also will not bypass both those official ninnies whom he really twisted around his finger and those who now only are trying to pretend to be ninnies.

6904

CSO: 1801/049

ARMED FORCES

SAM BATTALION CHIEF OF STAFF DISCUSSES TRAINING

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Captain V. Demin, chief of staff, surface-to-air missile battalion, Red Banner Siberian Military District: "Lessons of the Firing Range"]

[Text] The range greeted us with exhausting heat and teeth-crunching dust which rose densely from under the wheels of the vehicles and for a long while did not settle in the calm air.

I remember how Sr Lt Yu. Fedotov, a battery commander, exclaimed:

"Oh, it will be hot for us here!"

And he was right. It was hot, and not only from the merciless sun.

Immediately upon our arrival at the range we began intensive preparations for the training launches, and shortly before firing took the tests for range clearance. The tests went well. The commission rated highly the teamwork of the battalion and the professional training of the personnel. This made us happy, and, to be frank, to some extent calmed us. No, we were not overconfident. We knew very well that live missile launches always involve great effort and tension, but just the same expected that again this time we would carry them out without a hitch. But they were....

Here is what happened. The aerial target which we had to destroy at maximum range suddenly changed course and flew to the very edge of the destruction zone.

I am not saying that during previous trips to the range and in training in our "local" training center we operated under ideal conditions. There were times when each target was trickier than the one before. But at the very edge of the zone!

Soon everyone realized that it would be necessary to operate to the full extent of his capabilities. Not a second could be lost! We simply must succeed! We must stay within these fleeting seconds.

The psychological tension was great not only because we had received such a target, but also because as they were preparing to fire the battery commanders and their subordinates were excited about who would be assigned to fire the missile. That was the situation: all batteries prepared, but one would fire; the one which first detected the target and reported it was ready to fire.

The main thing was to succeed!

We did succeed. The missile left the launcher guides not a moment later than necessary to destroy the rapid, highly maneuverable target.

The battery commanded by Sr Lt Fedotov did the firing. This was the same Fedotov who had expected hot work on the range.

A no less intense situation occurred the next day when another battery fired on the aerial target. The "enemy" also did everything possible to hit his target, but the missilemen stopped his efforts with a well-aimed launch.

Summing up the firing, Major B. Sagdiyev, battalion commander (recently reassigned) told the officers:

"For some of you this was your first trip. I hope that the range gave you a feel for what is meant by conditions maximally approaching those of combat."

The commander was right. We all, especially the junior officers, learned a great deal.

Participation in a difficult and crucial test improves one's character and attitude toward work. Take, for example, lieutenants Yu. Korovnikov and I. Kop'yev. They differ from each other both in appearance and personality. The former is deliberate and on the slow side; the latter impetuous and at times hot-tempered in his actions. But like it or not, the range both had to subordinate their own natures to the demands of the situation. The plodding Korovnikov became active and quick, and the impulsive Kop'yev in contrast became self-disciplined and circumspect.

We took back a number of lessons from the training launches. It cannot be said that prior to this we had not paid attention in our training to creating a situation which would spur the personnel to more decisive and precise actions and temper them psychologically, but just the same the trip to the range forced us to look more closely at the organization, quality and effectiveness of the exercises which we conducted. Why? It would seem that our excellent evaluation in firing must indicate that all is well with our combat training. We did it so that in the future no unexpected or complex situation could, even for a short time, confuse or perplex our personnel; so that while they prepare to fire the specialists have an ample reserve of endurance, will and composure.

This is especially important for commanders--the direct organizers of battle. There are many young commanders in the sub-unit; both cadre and those who entered service upon graduating from VUZes. They improve their professional

skills via the commanders' training system. Training exercises are of great help. The battalion regularly goes to the field. There with the aid of specialized apparatuses the commander creates any aerial situation, always proceeding toward more and more complexity.

In critiquing one of the exercises he expressed the view that each battery must have an effective jamming simulator.

Major I. Ponuryy, deputy battalion commander for armaments; Warrant Officer V. Lagutkin, and other skilled personnel set about to develop such a simulator. Soon they fulfilled the task and their simulators appeared in each battery. The more difficult environment hampered the crews' actions, and at first there were instances when some of the young officers became flustered. For example, this happened with Sr Lt A. Fursa. However, with each exercise he became more self-disciplined and acted more and more competently and confidently. Now, in our opinion, he is one of the best deputy battery commanders. In addition he has already replaced the battery commander a number of times in combat exercises and accomplished his duties well. And he is not the only one.

"You must be able to do everything," Major Sagdiyev persistently instilled in the young officers, "and he prepared to replace any specialist."

While working out combat training tasks the battalion commander frequently introduced hypothetical situations which caused "casualties" to battery commanders, their deputies or launcher crew chiefs. At times even Major Sagdiyev himself became a "casualty." Only the first time did these hypotheticals produce certain difficulties in the rhythm of operations. As the specialists improved their ability to function at the next higher level of duties, all became more confident.

In my opinion, another factor which greatly contributed to the rapid improvement of the young officers was the fact that in training them Major Sagdiyev was able to combine an atmosphere of high demandingness with good-will. No one is immuned from making errors, all the more so one who has just begun service. Understanding this, the battalion commander always analyzed the mistakes of his subordinates calmly and with interest.

I recall this instance. During tracking on the range, Major Sagdiyev gave one battery a hypothetical: "The commander is a casualty; Sr Lt Kudashev is to take over his duties."

Senior Lieutenant Kudashev had barely taken the battery commander's place when another hypothetical followed:

"A contaminated area is ahead."

Kudashev did not become flustered. He gave the correct orders, but then slipped up: he did not take wind direction into account during decontamination of personnel and equipment.

Major Sagdiyev understood very well the state of mind of the young officer. He did not rebuke him for his error, but calmly and cogently analyzed his actions and suggested how to act in a similar situation.

Well organized exercises are instructive to the young officers.

I cannot help but recall this incident in connection with this. One day during combat training it turned out that the launcher whose crew was at the time commanded by Sr Lt I. Shchelin went out of operation. The defect occurred due to the negligence of the crew chief, and it was necessary to hurriedly arm another launcher. Is it necessary to say how much tension people felt when time limits not envisioned by norms were given to fulfill this task?

The "battle" with the "enemy" aircraft began on time. But this incident became the subject of the most serious discussion both at the officers' meeting conducted by the battalion commander and at a party meeting.

The numerous instances when the more fully trained officers help their junior comrades acquire necessary skills could also be called good moral lessons. Take Lt S. Onashko who was called up for 2 years' service. His duties were not related to his higher civilian education, but he coped with them excellently. If you ask how he was able to master them so quickly he will immediately answer:

"It is necessary to thank my comrades for that."

He thanks first of all Sr Lts A. Stablyanko and N. Geppener, specialists first class. Forgetting about their own rest and time, they helped him become a true missileman.

Recently we spoke with the new battalion commander about the officers' service, and he said:

"We have young officers everywhere in the battalion." Then he thought and stated: "But how can they be young if they have already passed their range tests?"

Truly the range is an excellent school of combat training. The lessons learned there are difficult and at times severe, but they temper the young officer and hasten his development as a commander.

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CSO: 1801/34

ARMED FORCES

EARLIER KAL INCIDENT RECALLED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Oct 83 p 3

[Article by Col Gen Arty Ye. Yurasov: "Links of the Same Chain"]

[Text] More than five years ago, at 1440 hours Moscow time, 20 April 1978, a Boeing 707 from the South Korean KAL airlines departed the Paris Orly Airport with a 13 person crew and 97 unsuspecting passengers on board, citizens of Japan, South Korea, France, the FRG and Taiwan. The aircraft was to fly the scheduled Paris - Anchorage -Seoul route.

For some time it flew the established international flight path. But then, before reaching Greenland, it suddenly turned sharply 91 degrees and flew initially to the east. Over Spitzberg Island it gradually began to deviate ever further to the south, headed to the Kola Peninsula, and at 2119 hours, 20 April entered USSR air space in an area northeast of Murmansk, having diverged from the international flight path by many hundreds of kilometers.

Soviet air defense fighters dispatched to intercept the aircraft used various maneuvers and blinking lights to demand that the intruder aircraft follow them for a landing at the nearest Soviet airfield. But the intruder did not respond in any way to the signals and continued its provocation deep into USSR territory. It flew directly over a Soviet strategic nuclear base and other important military installations, and only after two hours, owing to the actions of air defense fighters, was forced down near the town of Kem' in the Karelian ASSR, 300 km from the northern USSR border.

I must note that the crew members of the Boeing 707 at first tried to explain that their actions resulted from supposed equipment malfunction, and also that they did not see the Soviet air defense aircraft or their signals. However, later, pressured by the indignant passengers and also as a result of convincing facts that were presented, members of the Boeing 707 crew confirmed that, since they had numerous backup systems, they were fully capable of determining precisely their position throughout the entire flight. It was frankly admitted that the pilot and navigator observed and understood the commands of the Soviet aircraft from the outset, but did not obey them. For example, command pilot Kim Chang stated at the investigation: "Having seen a Soviet pilot flying parallel to us, I understood that we had entered USSR territory. I also knew that the fighter was commanding me to land as an intruder. It was my fault that I did not turn on the landing light and show by lights and wing tilting that I had agreed to land. I should have done that in the first place."

Navigator Li Gyn Sik gave similar testimony: "As soon as we saw land a fighter appeared near us. I saw red stars on the fighter. The fighter appeared first to our left, then to our right side, tilted its wings and blinked its lights."

Passengers stated that they saw with their own eyes a Soviet aircraft flying next to them and maneuvering, and that the South Korean airliner continued to fly as if nothing had happened, not reducing speed or altitude.

Subsequently, official White House representative Jody Powell was forced to acknowledge in his report that U. S. radar equipment detected in advance the approach and incursion of the South Korean aircraft into USSR territory. However, he did not explain why no measures were taken to put it back on course. The pilots of the Boeing 707 were also silent as to whose mission they were fulfilling on this flight.

It was clear at the time that this flight was not inadvertent, but was preconceived by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency and had a special reconnaissance mission. However, taking into account the crew's admission of personal guilt and its repentance, and that the aircraft finally did land, and guided by humane principles, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet resolved not to press criminal charges against the crew, but limited itself to expelling them from the Soviet Union. Comparing all these facts with the crude provocation organized and conducted by U. S. special services in the Far East on the night of 1 September of this year, dispatching a South Korean Boeing 747 into USSR air space, one must see that much in these flights not only almost completely coincides, but essentially was accomplished by one and the same hand.

First, in both flights the area and time of the provocation were carefully selected. In both cases the violation of air space took place over strategically important areas during darkness.

Second, in both cases passenger aircraft from one and the same South Korean KAL airlines, which has close ties to the CIA, were used for the provocation.

Third, in both cases the flight path crossed over Alaska with an intermediate landing at the U. S. airport at Anchorage.

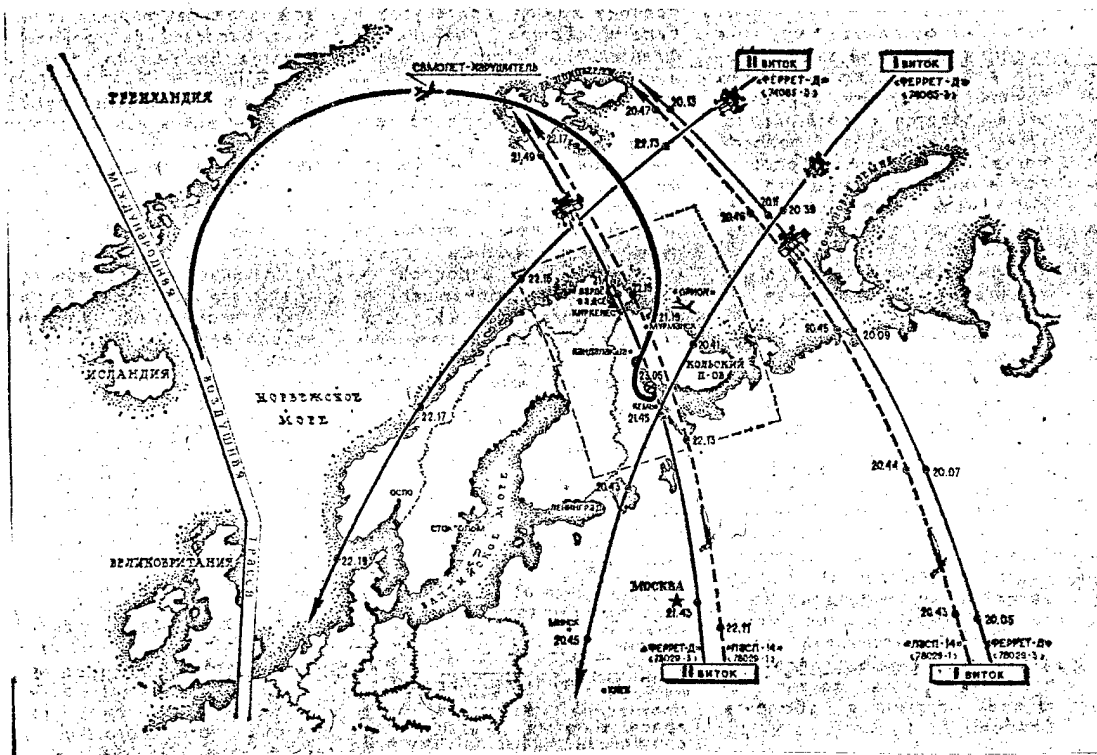
Fourth, in both cases there was a tremendous deviation from the international flight path, which was technically impossible for aircraft of these types.

Fifth, in neither case did the aircraft report having lost its bearings or request assistance. The crews did not comply with international flight regulations, ignored lawful demands from air defense fighters to land at the nearest airport, and tried to get away with impunity.

Sixth, in both cases the commander and navigator were former South Korean Air Force officers who had had specialized training in the U. S.

Finally, in each case the time and area of the intruder aircraft's flight were precisely synchronized with the flight of a U. S. reconnaissance satellite over USSR territory.

As can be seen from the map shown, the intruder aircraft entered USSR air space at 2119 hours and was forced to land at 2305 hours, 20 April. From 2005 to 2217, that is at the outset and during the most active phase of the incursion of the South Korean aircraft, two American Ferret-D electronic intelligence satellites (international numbers 74085-3 and 78029-3), as well a Lasp-14 (number 78029-1) flew over this same area, each making two revolutions. It has



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The accuracy of this data is recorded in materials of the Committee for Space Program Research of the International Council of Scientific Societies, and can be confirmed.

It is also significant that at the same time an American Orion reconnaissance aircraft was airborne in the area of the violation, and that more than 50 U. S. communications and electronics intelligence posts were in active operation in Kirkenes, Varda and Vadsa (Norway).

In short, both in this case and in the Far East an entire complex of reconnaissance equipment was put into operation and a passenger aircraft was used as a target, to provoke our air defense system in order to reveal its capabilities and operating regime under emergency conditions.

Western specialists recognized at the time why this was done. For example, here is the conclusion of Dr. John Bark, an astrophysicist at Leeds University, which was published on 27 April 1978 in the British MORNING STAR newspaper:

"Could not someone gain something from dispatching an aircraft without notice on a direct flight from northern Greenland to Murmansk? Yes, and a great deal. Soviet radar installations are of great interest to the West. The only way of finding out which radars are assigned to which targets and how effectively they operate and are controlled is to test them in operation. And what could be better than a lost "Boeing" which enters a strategically important area without notice? It is merely necessary to link up with a half-dozen satellites in space and secret intercept stations in England, Greenland and Norway, bring to combat readiness several ships on station in the Arctic, and then suddenly dispatch a Boeing to this region and simply observe and record everything which takes place."

In short the handwriting is the same, and it completely gives away its authors, the U. S. special services. Everything shows that more than five years later, in an environment of growing anti-Soviet psychosis, the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency not only tried to repeat its criminal experiment, but developed a large-scale new operation based on the old idea which this time had to take place "without fail."

One does not have to be a prophet to come to an unbiased conclusion: both flights were links in one sinister chain -- forged overseas.

But who gave the right to Washington politicians and strategists and their CIA underlings to flagrantly trample the sovereignty of other countries and risk human lives? White House officials calculated in vain that no one would ever learn the truth. The truth has already come to light. And for the crimes they have committed the organizers of this international provocation must bear full and complete responsibility.

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CSO: 1801/034

ARMED FORCES

SOVIET MILITARY DOCTORS IN AFGHANISTAN

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Oct 83 p 3

[Article by Lt Col V. Skrizhalin: "Thank You, Shuravi"]

[Text] In Afghanistan a doctor is worshipped. If there is anyone who can sometimes compete with him in this regard it can only be a mullah. But whereas reverence toward a holy man is mostly fear of punishment by Allah, the relationship toward a doctor is like toward a benevolent magician.

Afghans also like the contact itself with the doctor. This is not surprising. For centuries the nation did not know medicine or medical assistance. And suddenly illnesses which the people had not conceived of living without began to recede. Not through prayers but through people in white smocks.

The Afghan relationship toward military doctors of the limited contingent of Soviet troops is a special one. Such altruistic and selfless doctors had not been seen here.

FIRST BORN. Looking at the exhausted Dzhamilya, who was tormented by birth-pangs and had already tired of struggling for her own life and that of her future child, the women's side of the home understood that this was the end. Dzhamilya, who had recently been full of strength, was not destined to experience the joy of motherhood.

There is an opinion that Afghans easily part with life: Allah has given and Allah has taken away. Today the Afghan people, having felt how much regard for human life as a social category has changed have also begun to evaluate it differently as a biological category. Although they still believe that life is given to them by Allah, many, many people are no longer inclined with their former fatal estrangement to give it up -- either their own or that of those close to them.

The women's side of the house did not want Dzhamilya to depart, even for a better world. "We must take her to the 'shuravi'" (meaning Soviet) -- that was the conclusion of the women's consultation. When the Soviet doctors took his 18 year old wife from the arm of Kadyr, the slender thread on which her life hung was ready to break.

"Prepare to operate immediately!"

There was still a glimmer of hope of saving the mother. The baby was in worse condition.

The words "duty" and "friendship" did not come to the minds of Lt Col Med Svc O. Popov, Maj Med Svc V. Valdin, doctors N. Nikitina or A. Karimov, or Nurse L. Tupitsyna during those tense minutes. But no words could compare in their effect with news of the operation, which was successful. Talk about such instances spreads from village [kishlak] to village with amazing speed, affirming feelings of gratitude and love toward the healers.

I flew to the garrison where it took place ten days after the birth of little Mamedzhan. I did not find Dzhamilya. She and the baby, a new citizen of Democratic Afghanistan, were discharged in good health. But the section in which the young mother had lain still resembled a floral greenhouse. Kadyr, the baby's father, literally filled the ward with roses.

MERCY MISSION. The large tribe of 2,000 people followed Abdraim with submissive obedience. And they referred to him, the indisputable authority and the only person in the village who had obtained an education, in no way other than "Engineer Abdraim." When the tribe faced a choice of which side to take, they chose the defenders of Islam. Abdraim had so stated.

However, no matter how separated the Afghans living in the mountains were, talk about the land which the new government was distributing and about the schools and hospitals opening reached even here.

Abdraim himself fell to thinking. He was no fool and understood why people were starting to look at him with distrust. The struggle against the government was going nowhere. Many families were orphaned or left without providers. Supplies in the store were becoming scant. Death knocked more and more often at the homes. And not from bullets; sickness was literally cutting people down. Children suffered most of all.

Abdraim entered negotiations. One of the first conditions he set forth was for medical assistance to the sick. Unless a doctor were to be provided there could be no discussion of switching to the side of the government.

This was seemingly a trivial ultimatum, but it turned out to be beyond the capability of the local authorities to fulfill. For all practical purposes there was no medical base in this mountainous desert region. There would have been were it not for the constant attacks of the rebels on the villages and lines of communication. How many burned out and destroyed hospitals and medical workers who were either wiped out, driven into rebel bands or found it better to hide there were on account of the rebels! The authorities negotiating with Abdraim had no choice but to seek aid at the Soviet hospital.

The small column of five infantry fighting vehicles [BMP] slowly went deep into the mountains. The vehicles held medical tents, tables, couches and medicines. The road led through such narrow crevices that the BMP entered with difficulty.

The person who made the final decision to send the medical team to the warlike tribe which had until then been on the side of the counterrevolution understood clearly how dangerous and risky was this mercy mission. At the same time the mission of the Soviet doctors might play a decisive role in the tribe's selection of its future path. If no medical personnel were forthcoming the tribe would cease trusting the government authorities altogether.

It was decided. Volunteers would go to the village. They settled on Lt Col Med Svc V. Nikitin, Surgeon M. Matkarimovaya and Nurse Ye. Kamnevaya, plus security -- the crew and assault force of five BMP's.

How and with what would they be met in the mountains. The heart of each was gripped with alarm.

Abdraim himself greeted his guests. At first the number of armed people around was troubling. Later they became used to it. Like no one imagines going about without clothes, so the local Pushtoons today cannot imagine having no automatic weapon or rifle.

The aid station was set up on the bank of a mountain stream some 50 meters from a sharp bend [duval]. The BMPs stood to the rear, inside the circle which was formed by the medical tents. Apprehensions that their hosts might not approve of these measures turned out to be for naught. To the contrary, they observed with understanding how precisely and quickly the "shuravi" organized their defense. It was not out of the question that the ringleaders of the counterrevolution would do everything possible to prevent a major tribe from switching to the side of the "infidels." Therefore, on the orders of their leader the entire male population of the village capable of bearing arms also occupied positions at the outer defensive perimeter.

It is hard to imagine but true. Those who yesterday considered themselves your sworn enemy today are concerned that nothing happens to you. Is such a metamorphosis possible? Yes, if people do good.

While ridding their patients of physical ailments, Valentin Nikolayevich Nikitin and his colleagues attempted to reach their hearts. And they made some discoveries. The people were tired of war. The deprivations and ordeals suffered for an unknown cause forced them to ponder who were their friends and who their enemies. The son of a mullah, for example, acknowledged with a child's candor: "My father always got along well with the 'shuravi.' He was just afraid to talk about it for fear that he would be killed."

The fates of many thousands of Afghans are enmeshed in a complex tangle of contradictions. The chains of religious traditions, fear of retribution, and their own, often nationalistic, understanding of patriotism interfere with their ability to choose.

It was difficult, but this tribe seems to have seized the thread which, once pulled, can unravel the whole tangle. Here they were together, an attentive doctor and two affectionate khan children. Nor were the guard soldiers, the sarbazy, at all like evil people. The children of the village had never met

better friends among grownups. The Soviet soldiers also found a common language with those who until very recently had viewed them only through the notch of a gun sight.

During the week the medical team received approximately 500 sick people and distributed necessary medicine. The villagers saw the "shuravi" off more than warmly. They gave them a present -- two chickens -- probably the last that they had. Then a reciprocal "gift" was presented. All the medical team's remaining foodstuffs were given out. "Tashakor, doctor, thank you!" the people said, shaking the hands of the Soviet medical team.

BANDAGING. Recently I again met Sr Lt Med Svc Gasan-Guseyn Sagidov. We had not seen each other for six months. On his frock had appeared a dark cherry-colored strip -- the Order of the Red Star. I asked what it had been for. He briefly told. In time it came out that the very sort of "incident from medical practice" which I had heard about so often from other doctors had occurred at the very same time. True, it is not referred to in the award documentation, but some share of the award results from the incident.

The column had to pass through a village without stopping. Several days before an Afghan unit had "smoked out" a band from there, and now only the Afghan military patrols recalled the battle.

An Afghan officer speaking good Russian stopped the column and explained that a seriously wounded woman was in the village. The cry, "Doctors!" passed from vehicle to vehicle.

While Sagidov and the officer walked along a crooked narrow alley, the doctor explained what had happened. When the ringleader of the band felt that he could no longer remain in the village, he ordered that the band take all the males with them into the mountains. Many of the "draftees" hid. In one household where the bandits knew there should be a young man they found no one but women. As he left, one bandit fired a burst at the house, "just so they would know!" Two bullets hit the frightened woman in the shin and stomach.

Two men met the Soviet and Afghan officers at the house: the young man whom the bandits had been seeking and an old man, the wounded woman's father. Sagidov realized that they had caught the men in the middle of an argument.

The Afghan officer explained that the young man did not want the "shuravi" to examine his wife. The old man, who was the village wise man, insisted on the opposite. He understood that his daughter would die if a doctor did not begin to treat her. Good sense won out.

The condition of the woman, who was very young, was grave. Gasan took off the bandage made from dirty hide, nut tree leaves and burnt wool. The wound had festered and there was a threat of gangrene.

As the medic cleaned and treated the wounds he felt that, despite her pain, the woman was feeling relief. Gasan also looked after the old man, who was

observing the actions of the Soviet doctor with the curiosity of a diligent student.

Gasán left the old man medicine and dressings and explained what to do.

They could not leave without refreshments. A rug was spread out in the shade. Tea, cookies and a beverage resembling sour clotted milk appeared.

Sagidov was never again in those parts, but he was sure that his patient had recovered. He was also sure that her young Afghan husband would not again hide from the bandits, but would take his place in the ranks of the defenders of the revolution.

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CSO: 1801/63

REMOTE MINING DESCRIBED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 p 15

[Text]

What is remote mining?

A highly manoeuvrable character of modern battle necessitates quick effective means to be used for holding the enemy in position and inflicting on him maximum damage. Remote mining — the planting of controlled mines at a distance is one of the ways of carrying out this mission.

The means of remote mining are mines and mine systems: aviation, controlled and missile-artillery. With their help mined obstacles (mine fields) can be planted quickly at the necessary configuration and density. The maximum range for laying mine fields is determined by the operational radius of the delivery means.

The US army made wide use of remote mining in its aggressive war against the Vietnamese people. They were chiefly aerial mines planted from combat planes and helicopters.

Special controlled mines (antitank, antipersonnel, anti-vehicle) which are laid in a cluster, container or an artillery shell, can be conditionally divided into two types. Those that explode instantly when hitting an object are examples of the first type. The second type are those that are acti-

vated when they hit the ground, detonating only when struck, subjected to ground vibration acoustic and magnetic fields, etc. The mines of the latter type are usually provided with a self-destruction device which blows up in one or several days.

Remote mining can be used against columns and areas of enemy concentrations, command posts, fire (launching) positions and other enemy objectives. The key to success in employing mines is unexpectedness, which leads to great losses in manpower and equipment. This prevents the enemy from manoeuvring with manpower and equipment both in the rear and on the battlefield, frustrates his intentions, lowers the rate of advance or withdrawal, negotiating narrow places along the routes and also creates difficulties in using roads, airfields, depots, in assault crossing, in carrying out airborne and amphibious landings, etc.

The main methods for combating remote mines planted by the enemy are timely reconnaissance, destruction of the mine system, exposure of the mine areas and determination of the routes for bypassing them. When such a manoeuvre is impossible, the planted mines should be destroyed quickly and reliably.

Based on foreign press materials.

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CSO: 1812/19

ARMED FORCES

TACTICAL DRILL, EXERCISES DISCUSSED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 pp 14-15

[Text]

What is the difference between a factual drill and a tactical exercise?

A tactical drill differs from a tactical exercise by the purpose and method of its carrying out.

A tactical drill is conducted for the purpose of working up the methods of actions of subunits and units in different types of combat and in initial arrangements and also for preparing them for tactical exercises. They are carried out with sections (by complements and crews) and platoons without combat equipment ("on foot as on a vehicle" and "on foot as on a tank"); with companies (batteries), battalions and with units both without combat equipment and mounted on vehicles (on APCs, IFVs and tanks).

Subunits of other arms of the service and special troops might participate in such drills to work up problems of co-operation. As a rule, the subunit commander directs the drill. When other forces take part in such drills or when the given tactical drill is a control one, a superior commander discharges the duties of the drill director.

In tactical drills the troops work up only the most impor-

tant elements of certain types of combat actions. For example, the advance and deployment of subunits on the line of passing over to the attack, attack of the forward edge with breaching mine obstacles and others.

The topic, purpose and training problems are announced prior to the exercises. The working up of every question begins with an explanation, and if necessary the exercise director demonstrates the order of actions to the trainees. For correcting mistakes subunits start from the beginning, and the exercise director points out the mistakes. Then actions are repeated until the problems are completely worked up.

The aim of tactical exercises is to achieve team-work among small subunits (section, platoon and analogous subunits) and improve the skills of the commanders in organising combat actions and controlling their subordinates. They are carried out with the use of combat equipment and as a rule, with other arms. The exercises are controlled by the commander higher in rank than the commander of the trained subunit. At each exercise only one type of combat actions is completely worked up. For example: "Platoon in

the Offensive," "Section in Defence." The topic, purpose and training questions are not obligatorily announced before the exercises. After receiving a mission the subunit commanders make decisions, assign missions and carry them out in complex.

During a tactical exercise the exercise director can influence the actions of the commanders by giving narratives, introducing additional information about the situation, simulating enemy fire, and by temporarily putting out of action a part of manpower and equipment, giving other subunits an advantage. When flagrant errors in actions or violation of safety measures are detected the exercise director stops the exercise and points out the mistakes to be corrected. After that the exercise is continued.

Three to six hours are allotted for each tactical drill or tactical exercise, both in the daytime and at night. The exercises, as a rule, are carried out on training fields. Prepared targets are used for creating a tactical situation. A small number of personnel may be designated as the enemy. In general preparations for conducting tactical exercises and tactical drills are essentially the same.

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ARMED FORCES

HISTORICAL CHANGES IN GROUND TACTICS

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 pp 16, 18

[Article by Major-General I. Vorobyov, D. Sc. (Military)]

[Text]

Fire, blow and manoeuvre are the major items of a combined arms battle. As the means of struggle were developing, their content, role and place in combat actions were also changing. At the earliest stage of warfare when troops were armed with only cold steel blow was the basis of combat. Usually it was delivered by a solid mass of troops and developed to a relatively small depth. A skilful manoeuvre used with the purpose of gaining superiority over the enemy, favoured a successful completion of the blow.

Later on a new and a very complicated element of battle—fire—appeared. Its role manifested itself vividly during the Civil War when the warring sides began to use en masse tanks, artillery, aviation and small automatic weapons. Essentially, each battle began and came to an end with fire blows. It was impossible to carry out a breakthrough in the offensive without fire neutralisation of the enemy defences. Fire in defence was of no smaller importance. It increased its activity and stability. The strength of defence mainly consisted in fire resistance. Leaning upon the lines

organised with engineer works, the defenders erected a sort of "fire shield" in the way of the advancing enemy.

Under the influence of the growing fire power and mobility of the forces the content of blow has changed. During the Second World War it was delivered not only by infantry and cavalry as before but by powerful artillery groupings and aviation in combination with actions of infantry, tanks and self-propelled artillery mounts. The latter comprised the chief striking force of the land forces. Side by side with fire and blow, manoeuvre also underwent a sufficient evolution. It is calculated that during the Second World War nearly 40 per cent of the entire time was spent on different troop relocations and movements. Manoeuvre was widely used not only prior to battle but also in the progress of combat actions.

Under modern conditions further changes are taking place in content and interdependence of fire, blow and manoeuvre. On the one hand the old tendencies are becoming stronger, on the other, quite a few new traits have appeared. Fire today includes

both nuclear and fire defeat of the enemy. Solution of any tactical mission in modern battle is inconceivable without a reliable and continuous fire support of the forces.

During the offensive fire paves the way for the attacking subunits, destroys targets and objectives which hinder the movement, breaks or complicates the enemy manoeuvre with reserves and hampers restoration of the disturbed defences. In the past the advancing troops were forced to rout the enemy chiefly in close combat, now conditions allow for a simultaneous defeat of the entire depth of his battle formation. The methods of troops' passing over to the offensive, assuming battle formations, the system of cooperation, control, combat security, technical and logistical support, etc., are being improved under the influence of fire factor.

The growing fire potential of troops has influenced the methods of organising and holding defences. Using fire power the defenders are capable of not only exhausting the enemy but also of frustrating his offensive, of sharply and quickly changing the correlation of manpower and equipment, and of creating in a short time conditions for passing over from the defensive to the offensive.

The role of blow is also continuing to increase. Its essence consists in a simultaneous or successive defeat of the enemy groupings by the powerful effects of nuclear weapons, by conventional means and with the forces. In general, blow has the same distinctive features in its development as fire, for the latter makes up the core of blow. Fire and blow mutually supplement each other. Fire defeat of the ene-

my becomes effective provided the forces complete fire blow by their strike.

During combat a whole series of blows different in character and interdependent in purpose, place and time is being delivered. Their forms, methods of preparation and delivery are varied. It is conditioned by the increase of the quality of manpower and equipment engaged in carrying out combat missions. Whereas during the First World War these were mainly blows of infantry, cavalry and artillery, in the Second World War blows by tanks, rockets and airborne troops were added to them. At present the theory of blows has been enriched with such notions as nuclear-missile, nuclear artillery, aircraft, aircraft-helicopter blows and others.

Quite a few new features have appeared in the contents and methods of delivering these blows. In particular, radical changes have taken place in the contents of a blow delivered by the Land Forces. Now it is delivered with missiles, artillery and aviation in combination with blows of motorised infantry, tank and airborne units and subunits. By its character this blow has become an armoured one. The actions of motorised infantry and tank subunits capable of rapidly attacking and quickly surmounting the deeply echeloned enemy defence now make its basis.

Success of blow depends on the speed and reliability of fire defeat of the enemy, particularly his antitank defence system and also on surprise, resolve and swiftness of attack.

The main thing is to skilfully choose the method of its delivery and to resolutely concentrate manpower and equip-

ment in the selected direction. The principle of delivering a concentrated blow at the enemy at the right moment and in the right place was widely and skilfully used in operations during the Great Patriotic War. The Soviet Command by flexible manoeuvre achieved the necessary superiority in manpower and equipment on the sectors of the breakthrough (2-5-fold in manpower, 3-6-fold in tanks and 4-10-fold in artillery), and this secured a rapid breakthrough of the enemy defence. Under present-day conditions the method of a "concentrated blow" on a chosen sector has not lost its significance despite the great changes in battle weapons. However, concentration of manpower and equipment is combined with their dispersal along the front and in depth.

It is very important to underscore one element — namely the surprise factor of blow. The brilliant results of the Soviet forces in launching counteroffensive at Moscow and Stalingrad, in Korsun-Shevchenkivsky, Lvov-Sandomierz, Byelorussian, Manchurian and other operations were achieved primarily due to the fact that the Soviet Command managed to maintain secrecy while preparing blows. It was achieved by carrying out camouflage measures skilfully, misleading the enemy as to the place and time of delivering blows, by wide use of night-cover and by determining vulnerable points in the enemy defences.

It is also important to achieve a continuous building up of a blow throughout the entire combat. In past wars it was achieved mainly by consecutive commitment of fresh forces to action. Under present conditions the most effective

means of building up efforts are the delivery of the nuclear and fire blows. As to the forces, they are instructed to take complete and rapid advantage of the results of a fire defeat and to develop the success achieved.

The blow tactics has undergone deep qualitative changes. Such a conclusion can be drawn from the abovesaid. Although its inter-dependence with fire and manoeuvre increased, so did its independence, for a blow can be dealt to a greater depth.

The increase of fire and striking potential of the forces also exerts influence on manoeuvre. It is conditioned by the change in the character of manoeuvre, its dynamics, absence in a number of cases of a continuous front line and the possibility of carrying out surprise envelopments, deep turning movements, rapid disengagement of separate subunits from the main forces and striking blows at the enemy from various directions. Skilful manoeuvre makes it possible to take and retain the initiative, to frustrate the enemy's intentions, to thrust one's will on him and to concentrate resolutely one's efforts in the main direction.

Provision of subunits with everything required for rapid and complete realisation of the results of the nuclear and fire defeat; timely withdrawal of the forces from under the enemy nuclear blows (anti-nuclear manoeuvre); the shift of efforts from one direction to another; continuous accumulation of combat efforts and others are the most important missions of manoeuvre.

The skill of manoeuvring consists in predicting where the enemy plans to deploy its troops and strike a blow. To

do so one must know the position and condition of his subunits, and what kind of actions they are capable of undertaking. The gain of time when carrying out manoeuvre depends to a great extent on early preparation of subunits, designation of routes of their advance, making gaps through obstacles, etc.

In conclusion we underscore that effectiveness of fire, blow and manoeuvre depends, first and foremost, on the skill, moral, political, combat and psychological qualities of the fighting men.

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ARMED FORCES

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GROUND FORCES

BRIDGE-BUILDING TRAINING EXERCISE DETAILED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Sep 83 p 1

[Article, "Like Front-Line: Military Pontooneers Participate in a Controlled Exercise," by Lieutenant Colonel P. Chernenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Order of the Red Banner, Far Eastern Military District]

[Text] The commander of the pontoon battalion, Major V. Shkarubskiy, carefully studied the opposite river bank, meter by meter, through his binoculars. The engineer reconnaissance data confirmed that the river current was strong, the water level was higher than usual, and most importantly--the section on the bank where it was intended to conduct the crossing was unsuitable for deploying equipment. There will be a fair amount of work to do.

The pontooneers arrived at the water obstacle only a few minutes ago, having completed a march of many kilometers. The first stage of the exercise had passed, so to speak, without a hitch. The drivers skillfully drove the vehicles, strictly observing the order of advancing to the water obstacle. Now the most crucial stage was coming--placing the pontoon bridge. It must be ready by the appointed time for the crossing to the opposite bank of the motorized rifle subunits.

The battalion commander glanced over the officers' formation. Do they understand the crucial nature of the moment? The party meeting, held the day before, went in a businesslike atmosphere. The communists explained in detail to everyone what was necessary to do in order to prepare well the equipment and men for the exercise. They organized an exchange of experience of the best specialists. Masters of their profession, Senior Lieutenants A. Gerashchenkov, V. Moroz, Warrant Officer P. Zaslonov, and Junior Sergeant V. Stasyuk made presentations before their fellow-workers. They shared the experience of participating in tactical exercises, and told about the peculiarities of placing a crossing over a deep and swift river. They gave special attention to the young soldiers. A fully experienced specialist was appointed to each of them.

On the eve of going to the field, the fighting men met with the front-line soldiers, familiarized themselves with documents telling of how their brother-soldiers, under enemy fire, provided the crossing of a water obstacle to our troops, crushing the Kwangtung Army. The decorations of the front-line

soldiers also give witness of the military exploits of the pontooneers in the years of the past war.

The march showed that the personnel were in a fighting mood. But how would the young soldiers conduct themselves now, at the moment of the most trying test? Would they hold up? The battalion commander was thinking about this.

"They'll hold up," confidently declared his political deputy, Senior Lieutenant S. Lilov, as if guessing the battalion commander's thoughts. "Don't have any doubts. Communists are located at every crucial section."

Major Shkarubskiy nodded approvingly, glanced at his watch, and issued the command. Everything went into motion.

One after another the vehicles drove out of cover to the water's edge. Deploying from the march, they threw off the sections. The fighting men immediately joined them together and leveled them in the swift current. In order to speed up work, the battalion commander decided to assemble ferries in three places, and then bring them together in a linear bridge at the proposed crossing.

The subordinates of Senior Lieutenant Gerashchenkov worked at one of the locations. This was the best company in the battalion, the leader in the socialist competition. The pontooneers from month to month achieved high showings in military training. And now today they have committed themselves to better the norm for the time to assemble a bridge by one third.

The bridge sections grew right before your eyes. At first glance it might appear that everything was done easily. But the people know how much persistent work was done in training for that seeming ease. And how much work and time the experienced fighting men exhibited in order to more quickly bring the novices up to speed! And now there is little in which they yield to the experienced specialists.

Assembling the bridge ferries approached completion. Senior Lieutenant A. Gerashchenkov reported on readiness first, and following him--Captain A. Koshay. Both subunits bettered by far the norm for an excellent rating. Observing the actions of the battalion personnel, the okrug Chief of Engineer Troops, Major General Engineer V. Antonenkov noted the high skill and training of the pontooneers.

The battalion personnel took upon themselves a high commitment. This exercise in the concluding stage of the training year obviously gives witness to the fact that the word of these fighting men is kept firmly. In the final analysis this can't help but tell in the results of the military work.

The bridge ferries slowly, one after the other, approached the place where the crossing was projected. A steel ribbon joined the opposing banks. The ramps were launched. The anchors were fixed. The commandant's service approached the accomplishment of their responsibilities.

The battalion commander glanced at the stopwatch, and for the first time in this entire day a smile appeared on his face. The norm was bettered by one third. And at that time the military equipment was moving across the bridge.

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GROUND FORCES

INADEQUACIES NOTED IN TACTICAL FIRE TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 83 p 2

[Article, "But the Company Fired Well: On Deficiencies in the N Regiment," by Captain B. Khudoleyev, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Order of The Red Banner Baltic Military District]

[Text] The motorized rifle battalion chief of staff Guards Captain A. Nikolayev was in an optimistic mood. Glancing at him, one might have thought that a satisfactory evaluation, just received by a company in a tactical exercise with combat firing, which he conducted, completely suited him. Although it would have been difficult to prove it, the training year was drawing to an end and this training represented an estimate of their arm of service before the test.

"The company fired well," meanwhile said the chief of staff with conviction. But they lowered the evaluation because of deficiencies in tactical preparation.

That is roughly how the company commander Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Suvalov explained to his subordinates the reason for the low evaluation, during the summing up.

What happened? The company fired well on the exercise, the officers thought, but they gave only a satisfactory evaluation. Does it appear that the evaluators were insufficiently objective?

We can not worry about the results. Here, for example, is what the senior officer directing the military preparation and the okrug higher educational institutions, Major N. Polyakov, who was present at the training, had to say:

"We evaluate the firing preparation of the troops only in combination with tactics. The character of contemporary battle, which is, as is known, a continuous fire fight of both sides, demands such a step. Tactical firing training of personnel in these conditions has a decisive significance."

It is difficult to imagine that this truth is not known to Guards Captain Nikolayev or Guards Senior Lieutenant Suvalov. They both, of course, understand the significance of tactics in contemporary battle. But the setting

of high standards for themselves and their subordinate officers is evidently lacking. From the point of view of tactics the motorriflemen did not act, as the battalion chief of staff himself recognized, in the best manner. In the course of the offensive, in the company they only cared about how even the battle line was. The platoon and squad leaders practically did not direct fire, control the ammunition expenditure, and poorly utilized the maneuver capability of the equipment.

Other deficiencies were allowed also in this training. The target situation was known to the personnel in detail. The location where the military training tasks were worked out was so well known to all, that none of the officers even started to plot the tactical situation on their work maps. Nevertheless, no one demanded this of them because all the striving of the officers, including the training director Guards Captain Nikolayev, led to one thing--to destroy as many targets as possible.

Particularly striking in the motorriflemen's actions was the getting accustomed to a different type of indulgence and simplification at that moment when, at the direction of the senior commander, it was necessary to repel the "enemy's" counterattack with fire from place. Coming under fire of the counterattacking force, they did not consider it necessary even to drop flat, to dig in.

So scornful an attitude of the motorriflemen to tactics in the course of training with combat firing says a great deal, including about the deficiencies in the style of managing the training process. The absence of a constant demand on the officers of the subunits from the regimental commander and from the staff for quality of exercises and training led to indulgence and indifference in the process of training personnel not causing alarm in anyone. They simply paid no attention to it. Is not this fact witness that the officers, of whom we're speaking, so calmly reacted to the blunders of their subordinates in tactics? You know that Guards Captain Nikolayev and Guards Senior Lieutenant Suvalov earlier also had to participate in training, including that with combat firing. The evaluations of the subunits in this training, as a rule, were determined according to the number of holes in the targets. On such an approach to evaluating their actions, the officers were still counting. The force of inertia was at work.

But it happened differently. This time the actions of the motorriflemen were evaluated as they should be--by battle standards. Not only their ability to shoot accurately was taken into account, but also their ability to perform on the battlefield in conformance with a rapidly changing tactical situation. And so it turned out that people were insufficiently prepared for fulfilling the tasks placed on them in a severe time limit. The senior commander needed only to complicate the situation just a little, and they began to get flustered, and mistakes followed one after another.

There's nothing more to say about it. The failure of even one subunit in training with combat firing is a serious occasion for a commander, staff, and regimental party committee, as it is said, closely to concern themselves with questions of personnel tactical fire preparation. So much the better that

all this happens at the completion of the training year. It would seem that in the regiment they would do everything in order to eliminate, in the shortest period of time, the lag in the motorriflemen's tactical preparation, and take measures so that the deficiencies arising in the course of training in the company commanded by Guards Senior Lieutenant Suvalov, are not repeated in other subunits. However, none of this was done.

On the following day the motorized rifle company, under the command of Guards Senior Lieutenant N. Pashkov, solved the same tasks on the range. They, like the subunits of Guards Senior Lieutenant Suvalov, contemplated high bounds in the competition. Logic prompted that in order to prepare better for the forthcoming battle, it is useful to visit your neighbors, ask the what and how, consider their lessons. But, judging from everything, they were not used to such work here--nothing, so it is said, was never so much as mentioned about it.

Then, as it should have been expected, yesterday's deficiencies were repeated a lot. There was occasion here to see such. One of the gunners of a weapon, attached to a company of a tank subunit had to render first aid. This circumstance introduced complete turmoil in the military order of the attackers. With great difficulty, the "problem" was resolved.

It is not difficult to imagine, that the way the company offensive ended would happen the same in a real battle. Beside the plan of preparing for the training, as it turned out, working out questions related with personnel military medical preparation was envisioned. The motorriflemen had to be trained in actions during the rendering of first aid, evacuating wounded, etc. All this is necessary for battle. However, these questions, just as questions of tactical preparation as a whole, here led to a rating of second class. And not by accident.

The regiment where the aforementioned officers serve, just recently was considered the best in the division. Quite frequently their neighbors visited here for experience. But lately the motorriflemen have begun to surrender the positions which they had won. One of the reasons for this is seen in the insufficiently strict attitude of the unit commander and staff to the professional preparation of officers. In their obligations is a point aimed at perfecting tactical skill. However, the necessary control for its accomplishment, for the time being, has not yet been adjusted.

Now in the regiment they are thinking about how, in the time remaining until the end of the training year, to correct things. The question of courses of further improving the professional preparation of officers was considered in a party committee session, in an official deliberation. With consideration of the lessons learned lately, the subunit commanders were given concrete recommendations. It is necessary to suppose that this all will be of benefit. At the same time one must not forget that the effectiveness of the accepted measures and the final result in competition will depend largely on how responsibly the people will regard the affair, and if they will display strictness in evaluating their work.

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GROUND FORCES

CHARACTERISTICS GIVEN FOR ZSU-57-2

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 pp 38-39

[Article by Colonel Engineer V. Knyazkov]

[Text]

The ZSU-57-2 AD self-propelled gun (57 stands for the gun calibre in mm, 2 is the number of barrels) is a combat lightly-armoured full-tracked vehicle. Its turret can rotate through 360°, thus ensuring all-round anti-aircraft and ground firing from the gun.

Such a versatile vehicle is indispensable in modern combat since it is capable of both protecting the troops against air attacks and also can at any moment take part in destroying the ground enemy within subunits' battle formations.

The vehicle consists of the following main components: an armoured hull, a turret, armament, a power unit, a power transmission, a track and suspension system and electrical equipment. The armoured hull comprises three compartments: driving, fighting and engine.

The driving compartment, located in the front of the gun, contains all the mechanisms required to control the gun during movement. The fighting compartment occupying the gun middle part and the turret houses the armament and ammunition. The engine compartment which accommodates the engine and all mechanisms necessary for its normal operation is located in the rear part of the gun.

Let us begin considering the vehicle combat capabilities from its main armament — the AD twin automatic 57-mm gun. It has a 8,800 m maximum range of fire at aerial targets (the most effective fire is up to 4,000 m) and a 12,000 m maximum horizontal range.

The gun's automated systems ensure a high rate of fire — up to 240 rounds per minute. The projectile weighs approximately 2.8 kg, the muzzle velocity is 1,000 m/sec. The two barrels can fire four rounds per second. Operation of guns automatic devices is based on the use of gun recoil.

The AD gun is capable of engaging targets approaching from any direction because it has an unlimited azimuth traverse. The angle of elevation may reach 85 degrees and the angle of depression, up to 5 degrees.

The gun uses electrohydraulic turret traverse and gun elevating mechanism drives. Such a drive can turn the turret at a speed of 30 degrees per second, i. e., to rotate the turret through 180° takes only six seconds.

The gun can fire two types of artillery rounds: fixed rounds with fragmentation tracer grenades and fixed rounds with armour-piercing tracer projectiles. The unit of fire is 300 fixed rounds. The gun is clip-fed, each clip containing four rounds.

The gun's automatic antiaircraft sight determines the point at which the projectile will meet the target. At first, the following initial data are entered into the sight: the target speed, relative bearing and slant range. The target speed is determined from the aircraft type and the relative bearing from the direction of target movement. The target range is found by means of a range finder.

The gun crew includes a commander, a gunner, a sight setter, right and left loaders (they are accommodated in the fighting compartment) and a driver-mechanic.

There is no need to choose and organise a special position for the vehicle when it is necessary to open fire quickly at attacking enemy aircraft, because practically any relatively flat ground will serve the purpose. The designers did their best to reduce to a minimum the time required to change over the gun from travelling to fire position. Even trifles have been provided for. Suffice it to say that even tarpaulin covers put on the muzzles of both gun barrels are cast off automatically.

The commander's task is to observe the aerial target and visually determine its range, bearing and speed. The sight setter immediately inputs these data into corresponding devices and during firing continuously changes the target range.

Using the drive control, the gunner constantly keeps the target in the telescope cross-hairs. It is also he who presses the electric trigger button. To ensure continuous automatic firing, the loaders should immediately load cartridge holders into the magazine case. Each holder filled with fixed rounds weighs 28.5 kg, therefore only physically strong and hardy soldiers can do the job. They maintain their physical fitness through systematic training.

The vehicle itself weighs 28 tons. A powerful 520 h.p. engine ensures its high mobility and enables it to negotiate various obstacles. The maximum gradient and tilt angles are 30 degrees. The vehicle can negotiate trenches up to 2.7 m wide, water obstacles 1.4 m deep and ground obstacles 80 cm high.

Due to wide (580 mm) tracks, the specific pressure exerted by the gun on the ground is rather small — only 0.63 kgf/cm² (it is comparable with the pressure exerted by a man of medium weight). Therefore the vehicle can readily overcome snow-covered and swampy sections of the terrain.

On earthen roads the gun can develop a speed of 25-30 km/h and on highways up to 35-40 km/h. The vehicle cruising range, without refuelling, is 300-320 and 400-420 km respectively.

The ZSU-57-2 AD self-propelled gun features high firing and technical characteristics and enables a well-trained crew to successfully repel attacks from the air.

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GROUND FORCES

HISTORICAL OUTLINE GIVEN FOR MINE EXPLODERS

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 pp 42-43

[Article by Major A. Sholokhov]

[Text]

In autumn 1943, after the Soviet troops had forced the Dnieper, they started breaking through the fortified defences of the enemy which were densely covered with mine fields.

Fierce fighting ensued. Deafening explosions rent the air producing huge clouds of smoke and dust. But Soviet tanks negotiated mine fields intact. And by the morning of November 5 the 3rd Guards Tank Army reached the enemy lines of communication to the west and southwest of Kiev.

The safety of tanks passing through mine fields was secured by special mine exploders designed by Soviet military engineer Pavel Mugalyov. During this fighting the designer boarded a tank of the 166th Separate Engineer Tank Regiment, which was unlike any other military formation of this type in the world.

For its liberation of the Ukrainian capital the regiment was given the honorable title of Kiev and many of its officers and men were awarded Orders and medals. Lieutenant-Colonel P. Mugalyov was honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

In the 1930s the first mine exploders were designed to

detect and breach mine fields. Pavel Mugalyov was well aware of all the merits and demerits of these devices. One type of mine exploders reliably penetrated a mine field, but they were slow. Other types could be disabled easily and still others possessed both these disadvantages. Considering all the pros and cons, the designer created a track-type mine exploder PT-3. Its first model was tested in 1940. The PT-3 consisted of two sections of rollers equal in width which were attached to a tank. Each section of rollers, made of glass-hard steel, swept a 1.2 m track in front of the tank.

Being pushed forward by a tank, the several-ton weight mine exploder neutralised mines laid in the ground. Exploding under this mine-sweeping device, the mines did not damage the tank. Moving in a stagger formation each successive machine equipped with an exploder widened the track being swept of mines. The exploder's detachable components could be replaced, if necessary.

It should be noted that in the German, British and US armies they did not practise the mass use of mine exploders

because of their liability to damage. Thus, during the Great Patriotic War (1941-45) the Soviet forces captured an awkward looking German mine exploder in Berlin. Resembling a huge road roller it had big wheels provided with steel shoes. It moved slowly and only on hard-surface roads.

The British scorpion exploder consisted of a steel cylindrical drum with 1.5 m chains attached to it and provided with weights at the end. This mine exploder was fastened with brackets in front of a Valentine tank. The drum was set in motion with two auxiliary motors installed in the tank. When unwinding the chains struck the weights on the ground thus hitting the mines and causing their explosion. The exploder's sweeping rate was 0.5-1 km per hour. However, combat experience showed that when unwinding the exploder chains stirred up a great deal of mud and dust on the ground, which considerably deteriorated the driver's vision.

The American mine exploders were similar to those designed by P. Mugalyov. During the Second World War the Americans tested mine exploders whose wheels reached 3 m in diameter and hence were too heavy. Tanks mounting these exploders had poor cross-country ability and low sweeping rate. Besides, they were highly vulnerable to antitank fire.

The Soviet mine exploders graphically proved their superiority on the battlefields of the Great Patriotic War. Pavel Mugalyov's great services to the country were duly appreciated and in 1946 one more award — the USSR State Prize — was conferred on him.

After the war mine exploders continued to be improved and occasionally had combat uses. Thus, in 1962 Soviet servicemen rendered disinterested assistance to the Algerian people in clearing their long-suffering native land of mines. The country's territory was densely covered with mine fields stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to Sahara. The territory of nearly 100,000 sq. km was to be demined. This difficult mission was fulfilled with the use of Soviet mine exploders. The Soviet servicemen spared no effort in carrying out mine-clearing operations producing up to 10-15 explosions per minute. Showing unprecedented courage and heroism they discharged their internationalist duty with honour.

Armies of the world use several types of mine exploders: mine exploding rollers, scorpion exploders, mine plows and combined exploders (for instance, a combination of a mine-exploding roller with a mine plow). Most common are track-type mine exploders which are used to clear a two-track lane for a single-direction running. Some exploders are designed to make effective gaps. But their use is limited due to a heavy working member which adversely affects tank combat capabilities.

Here is a description of a track-type mine exploder KMT-5 (see Dwg) adopted for service by the Soviet Army. This type of exploder is designed for detecting and breaching mine fields. It has two rollers, two traction frames, a tow bar, a minesweeping chain to sweep the space between tracks; special mechanisms for lane designation, extra plows and electrical equipment. A tank crew can

detach the mine exploder without leaving the tank. The exploder's track width is 0.82 m and its cruising speed is 8-12 km/hr.

The mine exploder weighs 7.6 tons. It usually takes a tank crew 35-40 minutes to attach the mine exploder to the tank and 5-10 minutes to remove it. The exploder's equipment is transported by three ZIL-131 vehicles. One of the vehicles carries a loading crane. Lane designation mechanisms (a trace layer and a pyrotechnic device) are installed at the ends of a cleared lane.

A KMT-4 mine plow has a different operating principle. It cuts the soil and plows up mines on one side. This mine-sweeping device is used after a mine field has been detected. It weighs 1.1 tons and sweeps a 0.62 m track. It takes a tank crew 15-20 minutes to mount the mine plow on a tank and 3-5 minutes to dismount it. All handling operations are carried out with the use of a hand winch.

In combat conditions tanks fitted out with mine exploders are supported by artillery and tanks and protected with smoke screens. This enhances their efficiency allowing them to detect and penetrate a mine field without reducing the speed of advance.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

NEED FOR CONTINUED TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENT STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Capt N. Poroskov, Air Defense Forces: "The Search for Reserves"]

[Text] Pushed by a prime mover, the aircraft rocked and froze in the hangar of the TECh (technical maintenance unit). The specialists rapidly dispersed to their areas. Capt Tech Serv A. Koblyakov, the group chief who had arrived for periodic technical servicing, began the acceptance inspection of the aircraft along with the others. The officer performed its external inspection, registering deficiencies, and at the same time came up with a plan for work on the equipment.

The group headed by Officer Koblyakov is the leader in the technical maintenance unit. It is a capable, goal-oriented collective as indicated just by the following fact. In the winter training period the group held a leading position in competition, shifting from third to first place. The successes achieved multiplied from month to month during the summer training period, so that there seemingly was no cause for anxiety. But the officer thinks as follows: A continuous search for reserves has to be conducted, and not be satisfied with the present high indicators. The result was apparent at the end of the training year.

A characteristic example of one of the successful technical solutions is the outfitting of the second work station for inspection of the aircraft undercarriage. This permitted an improvement in the quality of periodic technical servicing and a substantial reduction in the time for inspecting the important assembly, but with use of the innovation the question of the interchangeability of specialists arose more acutely.

For example, WO [praporshchik] V. Shugay, who knows the features of periodic technical servicing on the undercarriage down to the fine points, even earlier mastered the hydraulic system and aircraft control system. WO V. Skobelev, who has the rating of master, has been on familiar terms, as they say, with all operation charts for a long while. But somehow the mechanics, first-term soldiers, remained in the shadows. Having unfolded socialist competition even more vigorously with the beginning of flight training, the subunit made an effort to include this category of specialists as well in the search for

reserves. The range of their knowledge widened steadily and their skills improved. Here is the result. In a short time Sgt V. Zubokritskiy and Pvt V. Glushkov successfully mastered related specialties and the other soldiers followed the right-flankers of competition.

Such a tested form of training as short technical training problems contributed to an improvement in the effectiveness of mechanics' training. As a rule they examine one narrow problem area such as the design and operating rules of such-and-such a component or such-and-such a system.

The collective also has frequent meetings with technicians and flight mechanics. It is well known that by virtue of the specific nature of their activity TECh specialists have a higher technical level of training than their colleagues from the squadrons. Capt Tech Serv Koblyakov's subordinates consider it their duty to share experience and knowledge with them but they themselves also draw much that is new and useful for themselves in the contact with squadron specialists. Officers N. Karavash and V. Katalevskiy succeed here especially.

Rooms have been refitted for the inspection of hydraulic systems, demothballing components and flaw detection for the purpose of improving the quality of periodic technical servicing. Skilled craftsmen made a unit for mothballing engines. Now it is not necessary to summon special equipment to the TECh. The production effect is considerable. Modernization of one other unit permitted filling undercarriage shock struts faster and with fewer labor inputs.

Group innovators have many other useful things to their credit. They are working to their utmost. They pledged to submit ten rationalization suggestions during the year, but they have adopted some 20.

Young aviators also are becoming accustomed to technical creativeness. The existing system of assistance by experienced specialists to beginning mechanics plays more than the last role here. WO V. Ganzuk regularly assists Pvt A. Mirzayev. Pvt Sh. Alimov is learning expertise from WO V. Sokolov.

And here is something else I would like to say. The struggle to elevate technical culture in the work was advanced to one of the first places in the group during the summer training period. When tests were taken for class ratings consideration was given, along with all else, also to such qualities of mechanics as neatness and a thrifty attitude toward equipment and tools.

The number of rated specialists has grown in the group, with four masters of combat qualification and five soldiers with a first-class rating now working here. Among them are Officer Ye. Fomchenko, WO Ya. Zakirov and others.

TECh chief Maj V. Gerasimenko and his political deputy Capt N. Onishchuk rightly believe that the group set a good tone in socialist competition for all subunit personnel in the training year. This group's experience in performing periodic technical servicing has been generalized and adopted by all TECh personnel.

But the primary result of the foremost collective's work in the training year which is coming to a close is that all aircraft in the squadrons are accepted with the first presentation.

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

'MONGOLIAN PEASANT' SQUADRON IN TACTICAL FLYING EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Maj V. Paramonov, Order of Lenin Transbaikals Military District:
"The 'Mongolian Peasant' Squadron Attacks"]

[Text] The airfield resembles a floating warship. The steppe feather grass flows around it in waves to the horizon. The winged combat craft taxi out to the runway, then soar into the sky one after the other and disappear beyond the brown peaks. A tactical flying exercise of the "Mongolian Peasant" Squadron is under way at the end of the training year...

The history of this air subunit numbers 40 years. Activated in September 1943 the squadron was armed with 12 La-5 aircraft built with funds of Mongolian People's Republic peasants. On receiving these aircraft squadron commander Capt N. Pushkin assured the Mongolian friends that the aviators would honorably justify the high trust of the fraternal nation and would strike the hated enemy capably and mercilessly. Since then the fuselages of the aircraft traditionally have depicted galloping red horsemen with the inscription "Mongolian Peasant."

The squadron received its baptism of fire in aerial combat in the Kursk Bulge. Later came the Baltic and East Prussia. Squadron aviators ended the war in the sky of Berlin and Prague. In 1½ years of fighting the pilots shot down 85 fascist aircraft and destroyed a large quantity of enemy combat equipment and personnel, and three pilots including squadron commander Capt Pushkin were awarded the title HSU. The squadron's grand history continues today.

...The headquarters flight was first to approach the range. It crossed the "enemy" air defense zone at low altitude observing radio silence.

"Maneuver," ordered squadron commander Lt Col F. Kaluga.

Executing a zoom, the aircraft gained altitude above the target only for a few seconds.

"Release!"

The external store indicator went out: The bombs had headed for the target. The aircraft disappeared just as suddenly as they had appeared. In their

place a flight commanded by Capt V. Gaychuk already was attacking from another direction.

Despite the bad weather conditions the airmen quickly located the small targets. The terrain resounded with the chatter of cannon fire. Plumes of bursts arose on the ground. The projectiles had hit the targets.

"They are working expertly," remarked Honored Military Pilot of the USSR Maj Gen Avn N. Vlasov, who was observing the progress of the exercise. "By the way, that's how it should be, for they are all aces in the squadron."

Nikolay Andreyevich was not exaggerating. All pilots of the "Mongolian Peasant" Squadron have a high class rating and the political deputy Maj A. Kvitnykh is a military pilot-sniper.

The present generation of aviators of the famed squadron sacredly revere and augment combat traditions of the frontlinesmen and maintain fraternal ties with the Mongolian people and their soldiers. Numerous awards carefully kept in the subunit reading room tell about the military valor of the "Mongolian Peasant." Among the awards is a memorial banner of the People's Great Hural of the MNR [Mongolian People's Republic] and a prize for winning socialist competition based on the results of the past training year.

Squadron aviators prepared for the tactical flying exercise to their utmost, with their inherent thoroughness. Unscheduled consultations were held in which experienced airmen shared secrets of crossing the "enemy" air defense zone and told about the most effective techniques for bombing and strafing. In developing schemes for delivering bomb and cannon strikes they worked out an optimum version of actions together. Much time was devoted to "flights" on the simulator.

During the summer training period the squadron paid much attention to quality of preparing equipment for flights and to reducing the time for making it combat ready. For example, not long ago the aviators did much to fill out the set of containers with equipment and gear. This helps accelerate the preparation of aviation equipment for a sortie.

...The pause did not last long in the exercise. At the command pilots again took their places in the cockpits. The "Mongolian Peasant" Squadron had been assigned the next mission: to knock out a runway at an "enemy" airfield, destroy his SAM launchers and deliver a strike against advancing reserves.

The heirs of the frontlinesmen's combat glory again took off beyond the clouds.

6904

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

TRAINING METHODS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col G. Drugoveyko, first class military pilot, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "New Weapons and Tactics: The Fighter Is Strong in Maneuver"]

[Text] A pair of fighters led by first class military pilot Capt V. Drobotov was preparing to attack the air "enemy" from a certain initial position. At first the combat presaged nothing unexpected as the pilots had undergone thorough preparation and worked out several versions of actions for destruction of the target in detail on the night before.

And so now the attack was developing in accordance with the calculated aerial combat model. After making the planned turn precisely and cohesively, the missile-armed aircraft closed swiftly with the target. It was a matter of seconds until launch of missiles when the "enemy" suddenly performed a skillful maneuver. Capt Drobotov and his wingman Sr Lt V. Lobanov immediately were in a position unfavorable for an attack. The "enemy" would succeed in avoiding destruction were they to continue to adhere to the version worked out the day before.

Capt Drobotov had only a few seconds at his disposal to analyze the abruptly changed situation and make the correct decision. Only a maneuver unexpected by the "enemy" could bring success to the interceptors in the difficult situation at hand and the experienced leader did not lose his head. Almost instantaneously he threw his aircraft into a turn such that it placed the fighter in the most favorable position for attack. The air "enemy" was hit with the very first missile...

After the flights squadron pilots discussed in detail the combat which Capt Drobotov and Sr Lt Lobanov had conducted successfully. As a result everyone arrived at the unanimous conclusion that it was above all the ability to execute the most advanced kinds of maneuvers precisely and competently that brought them victory.

I admit that at times I also have occasion to hear the following opinion: The time of maneuverable aerial combat allegedly has faded into the past. Adherents of such views assert that all these "carousels" and "stacks" are of the

era of propeller-driven aircraft. They refer to the fact that the spatial scope of a supersonic fighter's maneuver is so great that the situation which has changed during the execution of a particular figure will no longer correspond to the chosen maneuver. In addition, they say that in the execution of a tactical maneuver visual contact among pilots of a group performing the same tactical mission is lost for a long while.

All this really is so, both the great spatial scope and the inconstancy of visual contact. There still are frequent situations where a pilot uses the enormous capabilities of the modern fighter's weapons right away, but experience indicates more and more persuasively that a pilot's ability to conduct dynamic aerial combat now determines the success in performing the most difficult missions to a decisive extent. As a rule under present-day conditions the pilot attacks the "enemy" in a situation where he himself is in the coverage of air defense weapons. One will not approach the target here along the ideal straight line, as they say. Maneuvers are needed for victory in actual combat which simultaneously contain the desire to destroy an aerial target and the understandable desire to avoid a retaliatory strike.

The need for maneuver appears even more obvious when there is an encounter with a group target. It is far from a matter of indifference here as to which aircraft in the combat formation must be struck first. This means that maneuver is required which would ensure an approach for the attack against the most important target. Moreover, it is no secret that under conditions of active electronic countermeasures it is difficult to make full use of the fighter's tactical capabilities. And again the effectiveness of equipment can be improved substantially by certain maneuvers.

In short, aerobatic flying figures cannot be written off to the archives. One can't get by without them in today's aerial combat. That means one also has to prepare for this thoroughly, persistently and purposefully. I know from experience that some pilots, especially young ones, are troubled by the difficulty of mastering the most advanced kinds of maneuver where an acute time deficit arises for making the necessary decision. In reality many elements of the assignment at times are so saturated that a pilot gets the impression that he will not manage to accomplish the assigned mission to the full extent.

In my view in order to accustom the pilot to being ready to execute any maneuver boldly and resolutely we must turn more often to mathematics. I recall an incident with Capt V. Tumakov. Before the next tactical flying exercise where our squadron's aviators were to conduct difficult and responsible aerial combat, I noticed that the officer somehow had gotten very tense. Although it was not at once, I succeeded in learning that Capt Tumakov was troubled by possible mistakes in executing one of the elements of the flight assignment where time would be measured in seconds.

At that time Maj A. Mashchenko, one of the regiment's best pilots, came to the captain's help. Together they performed a unique mathematical calculation of upcoming combat. It turned out that functioning quickly in this flight didn't mean performing numerous instantaneous movements. Maj Mashchenko proceeded from the condition of the speed at which the aircraft would close with the

target and how much time the closing maneuver would take. As the calculation showed, in this time the pilot was capable of performing some 20 operations, which is fully sufficient to manage to find a solution to any situation competently. As a result the officer performed the difficult flight assignment with an outstanding grade.

Using this example I would like to emphasize the importance of pilots' theoretical preparation in the work of perfecting flying proficiency. The opinion exists at times that success can be achieved here only through multiple performance of particular exercises in the air, as if to say the aircraft has to be "driven" as much as possible and then something will result. The adherents of such views take a skeptical attitude not only, for example, to mathematical substantiation of their actions, but also to a knowledge of certain provisions of aerodynamics.

Let's take the situation where a figure close to a half-roll has to be used for an attack. In so doing one naturally has to figure almost instantaneously the angle of arrival, mean load factor, distance of entry into the maneuver, and expected distance to the target after its execution. Experience shows that a pilot who delves more into matters of aerodynamics and tries to tie them in more closely with the accomplishment of practical missions copes faster with such calculations. We in the squadron regret no time spent on better organizing comprehensive preparation for each flight and improving the effectiveness and quality of classroom activities. For example, a very great deal is provided by discussion of the solutions to training missions, an analysis of pilot actions in the air and an exchange of experience.

Such discussions prompt the pilots to master more actively the most effective techniques of conducting aerial combat, enrich them with knowledge and foremost experience and improve their creative initiative. We try to ensure that each pilot learns to model upcoming aerial combat competently, and not just envisage a certain possible scheme of his actions, but figure 2-3 variants so as to have an opportunity to choose quickly the one most favorable for tactical maneuvering in attacking the "enemy" if the situation demands it. Attention also is given to attaching the necessary purposefulness to the choice of a particular figure. Let's say not just a normal loop, but a loop either while gaining maximum altitude at the upper point or with a maximum overload on the trajectory.

But maneuverable aerial combat is the primary test of a pilot's readiness for competent, skilled actions. Here is where all plusses and minuses of preparatory work are graphically seen, as they say! I remember how the squadron studied results of aerial combat performed by a flight commanded by first class pilot Capt Yu. Priymak. It was learned in the analysis at that time that at the moment the attack concluded the wingmen were operating rather passively. It turns out they believed that since the leaders were first to fire, the targets most likely had been hit already. After this, allegedly, the other pilots merely had to denote the requisite maneuver in a formal manner.

A serious discussion was held in the squadron based on materials of this combat, about the fact that every pilot has to be ready for vigorous actions

under present-day conditions. Being accustomed to a stereotype shackles the airman's initiative and noticeably reduces the effectiveness of accomplishing the assigned mission.

After another instructive aerial combat mission we specifically and thoroughly discussed the question of the need to be bolder, to take an intelligent risk in combat and make more active use of the capabilities of aviation equipment and new tactics of combating the air "enemy." It is no secret that some pilots prefer not to go beyond the bounds of "tried and true" methods of aerial combat, referring to the fact that everything is spelled out by appropriate documents and the pilot's task allegedly is only to perform them strictly.

It stands to reason that the demands of documents represent the law of flying, but they can't provide detailed recommendations for all instances which will be encountered in actual aerial combat where the enemy will undertake the most varied tricks both in tactics and chiefly in the techniques of flying. It is important to prepare oneself constantly for difficult ordeals and to use all means for a further improvement of tactical proficiency.

Meanwhile there still are many problems. It is well known how great an importance the simulator has for pilot training. It allows effective development of skills in controlling the missile-armed aircraft in various flying conditions. But I for example have not yet had occasion to see a simulator intended for practicing actions during maneuverable aerial combat, although there is a need for such training gear.

As a rule aerial combat is conducted in aircraft of the same type, which causes inevitable oversimplifications inasmuch as the pilot has had a look at the traditional target and knows its capabilities from personal experience, which makes the conditions for aiming easier for him. And a well-known arsenal of maneuvers also reduces the acuteness of a duel. The pilot knows in advance what techniques the "enemy" might use. There would appear to be greater benefit if a certain percentage of group maneuverable combat actions is waged with an "enemy" flying other types of aircraft.

...The pair of fighters is waging intense aerial combat. The powerful missile-armed aircraft first soar upward swiftly, then, banking, they describe a gigantic arc. Each of the pilots strives to use all techniques to achieve success. The fighter is strong specifically in the maneuver.

6904

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

TRAINING RESULTS COULD BE HIGHER

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Maj N. Tsvetov, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Results Could be Higher"]

[Text] Aerial reconnaissance established that the "enemy" was regrouping and bringing up fresh forces to the forward edge. The aviators received a mission of delivering a strike against the advancing reserves. A flight headed by squadron commander Maj V. Potarakin took off.

The missile-armed aircraft closed swiftly with the conditional front line at low altitude, which assured an undetected approach to the target. At that very time, however, limited visibility made it difficult for the pilots to search for and detect the designated target. Such a mission was within the capability only of experienced, well trained aviators. There were just such officers in this flight--all of them are first-class military pilots and have substantial experience in attacks on moving ground targets.

After awhile Maj Potarakin fixed his attention on a series of bursts on the ground. After comparing his map with the terrain the squadron commander was sure that the missile-armed aircraft had arrived in the search area. An important moment had come.

The leader was first to see the target. An "enemy" missile launcher was camouflaged in bushes beyond the edge of a forest. The squadron commander's aircraft rocked its wings and immediately went into a dive with a turn toward the target. The other pilots in the flight understood the "Attack" signal.

The launcher position was shrouded in smoke from the bursts of air-to-ground missiles. After performing the prescribed maneuver the aircraft headed on a reverse course. At this moment Capt V. Yermola, wingman of the last pair, noticed that the group was being attacked by a flight of "enemy" fighters. The pilot immediately warned Maj Potarakin about this. The leader quickly maneuvered by placing the warplane in a turn and making a zoom. Obeying the command, the group pilots repeated the squadron commander's maneuver precisely and cohesively.

The "enemy" dashed past, not expecting the energetic maneuver. Now the flight controlled by Maj Potarakin was in a favorable position for attack. There followed a swift closing, aiming and accurate missile launch from the established distance. When Maj Potarakin's subordinates returned to the departure airfield their colleagues congratulated them on an outstanding grade.

The aviators arrived at the finale of the training year with rather good results in combat training, but here is what I would like to draw attention to. Those same pilots who were known for their high degree of schooling in the winter period as well demonstrated a high class of combat work. Back then Maj V. Potarakin and captains V. Sysoyev and V. Yermola performed all assigned missions confidently, and they did not let down even now.

Unfortunately, however, this can't be said about many others. The fact is that under conditions of the strenuous summer combat training all pilots had an opportunity to polish their proficiency, improve skills and accumulate experience with high effectiveness. Nevertheless by year's end few airmen capable of performing the most difficult missions under all conditions had been added in the squadron.

For example, Officer N. Goryayev's training still requires serious attention. It can't yet be said that he fully masters the art of conducting modern aerial combat. The subunit also has other pilots whose training level differs perceptibly from the leaders.

Just why did that happen? In my view an underestimation of the importance of socialist competition and foremost experience became one of the reasons for such contrasts. Vigorous, purposeful struggle among crews for attaining the best indicators during flight sections, exercises and firings essentially was lacking here. Several times during the year Capt Sysoyev's crew was declared the winner in competition but the subunit had not really studied the experience of the leaders which would have helped other aviators achieve the very same high results.

A detailed analysis of results achieved by the subunit indicates that they could be higher. Although the squadron looks rather well because of the leaders it can't be forgotten that actual combat places identical demands both on the aces and on those who have been accustomed to being satisfied by more modest results in combat training.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

SHORTCOMINGS EVIDENT IN SAM DIVISION'S TRAINING EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Col G. Verbitskiy, Central Group of Forces: "Pledge Fulfillment Under Strict Supervision: A Lesson of No Benefit"]

[Text] The rumble of the launchers' engines died out, station antennas froze and the practice missiles again took their places on the transporter-loader vehicles. Control problems had ended in the surface-to-air missile [SAM] battalion. Deputy battery commander Sr Lt V. Abmayev delayed a bit at the darkened screen of the plan position indicator as if wanting to determine with its help the reasons for the failure which the subunit had suffered.

Battery personnel had made high pledges but the missilemen's combat work in the past problems and their technical training had been evaluated only as satisfactory.

A year ago the battery commanded by Maj V. Ovsyannikov, where today the commander's duties in the problems were performed by Sr Lt Abmayev, had not received a high grade in field firing. The operators had let them down. They lacked expertise for successful actions against low-flying targets. It seemed that conclusions would be drawn from this lesson but some time passed and operators of the team commanded by Sr Lt Ye. Yermolayev again repeated the very same mistakes in one of the practices. On detecting an air target they were able to place it on automatic tracking only after several attempts. Time was lost and with it the opportunity to hit the practice target at maximum range.

And again the reasons for the failure proved not to have been uncovered deeply and thoroughly. They were that the operators lacked skills of working in a difficult situation and above all under conditions of jamming, and their actions on the equipment had not been practiced until they were automatic. Meanwhile some time ago higher headquarters had recommended installing special devices on the equipment which permit creating high intensity jamming and thus complicating practice conditions, but the battalion decided not to burden itself with extra troubles. Moreover, even the authorized simulation gear often was not used in field problems. This of course led to indulgences in combat training and reduced its effectiveness.

This attitude toward organizing the training process can in no way be tied in with those pledges made by the subunit. Strictly speaking, no particular concern is seen in the battalion for fulfilling them.

Above all there is no proper demand placed on the officers. Strange as it may seem the subunit staff sets far from the best example here. Here is where the record of pledge fulfillment by officers must be kept, but staff officer Sr Lt A. Ogurtsov appears not even to have known about this. Many other facts indicate the formal attitude toward the organization of competition in the battalion. A document on results of pledge fulfillment is kept right here in the headquarters, which states that the battery commanded by Sr Lt V. Glazkov is the best. But displays in the subunit reading rooms state that first place was won by the battery commanded by Maj V. Ovsyannikov.

Or take another fact: According to battalion headquarters data (and it must be assumed that these data were a part of the information about pledge fulfillment passed on to the unit headquarters), Lt B. Proskurin is a second-class specialist and Lt S. Alekhin is a first-class specialist. But the fact is that these officers finished military school just a year ago and according to existing provisions simply did not have the right to take tests for such a high class rating although the high rating had been conferred on them right after the winter training period. All this hardly contributes to the creation of an atmosphere of efficiency, mutual exactingness and demands in the collective.

That is how things are here now. The interests of combat readiness and lessons of the past training year demand that the situation be corrected decisively. Such possibilities do exist. For example, the battalion has many teams where competition is well arranged and results are stable. If their experience were adopted it would unquestionably contribute to success. For now, however, matters are far from well with this in the subunit.

At one time, it is true, an attempt was made to generalize foremost experience. A display--a competition board--was set up for this purpose in the reading room. In the opinion of competition directors the board should become a unique rostrum of experience of the best specialists, and that is how it was at first, but then people became cool toward the innovation and began to regard it in a formal manner. For example, the best specialist, whose photograph and a description of his experience were placed on the board, was released to the reserve. Without further ado they replaced it with the photo of Jr Sgt V. Nikonov and left the text as before without even changing the predecessor's name in it. And so they really "generalized" experience.

In short, the competition board in the reading room "went out." The last grades opposite the names of competitors were posted back for July and results of contests for the title of best specialists have not been recorded for a long while. It is not surprising that you now won't see any of the missilemen at the board. But neither this circumstance nor the state of affairs in the subunit concerns the commander and party bureau secretary Maj V. Shchitina despite the fact that the most responsible time--the final inspection--is coming for the battalion literally in a matter of days. As can be seen, the past lesson was of no benefit.

LESSONS LEARNED IN MISSILE RANGE PRACTICE

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 pp 19-20

[Article by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Dmitrichenkov]

[Text]

The air defence missile battalion commanded by Major V. Yerin rightly enjoys good fame. Its entire personnel act like a well-oiled machine, their fire is accurate and effective.

Not so long ago, however, they were only average, making quite a few mistakes in missile launching. It is to the missilemen's credit that they managed to find the source of their failures, which enabled them to timely correct their errors. This was largely due to the lessons they learned during missile range practice.

THE TEST

Every man in the battalion remembers that launching to this day. The howling of a siren broke the silence reigning on the missile range and a moment later the missilemen's positions came to life. Captain Ozolin, a battery commander, gave clear-cut and precise commands. His slightly vibrating voice betrayed his emotions. That was quite understandable, for his battery was to be the first in the battalion to perform practice launchings.

In the beginning everything went on without a hitch. The operators detected an "enemy" aircraft at a maximum dis-

tance, and switched the radar to automatic tracking at a relevant command. The main thing now was to make a record hit at a high-speed manoeuvring target. To do this, the fire control officer had only to press the start button at the right moment.

Quite unexpectedly the operators reported that they had lost track of the target.

For a split second the battery commander had an idea that the equipment had let the men down. It turned out, however, that the equipment had nothing to do with the failure. The actual reason was that the target flew a sharp vertical manoeuvre, which the operators were obliged to spot by the change of the blip on the radar screen and to perform relevant operations. But they failed to do so. Even Senior Lieutenant V. Grevtsov, the fire control officer, had overlooked the "enemy's" tactical move.

The situation became very tense. One command followed another in quick succession, and some operators were late in executing them.

At last the target was locked on again, tracked for a few moments and ultimately des-

troyed. But as this happened at the near effective area, the battery got lower marks for their performance.

This shortcoming made the commander wonder what qualities the specialists lacked to put in a better show. Everybody seemed to be well familiar with the equipment and have firm skills in handling it. The missile range, nevertheless, had placed higher demands on the missilemen's proficiency and psychological training standard. The practice firing just described revealed that the operators' skills had yet to be improved and that they lacked sufficient poise and self-control to be able to track targets confidently in complicated situations right up to the moment of their destruction without nervous breakdowns.

The results of the firing were summed up in the presence of all subunit commanders. Major Yerin drew their attention to insufficient training level of some operators, which was evidently due to omissions on the part of individual officers who taught their subordinates in an old-fashioned manner, using the same trite methods.

Bearing this in mind, the battalion CO decided not only to brief them on the new trends in combat training methods but also to show their high practical value.

DEMONSTRATION METHOD

The battalion CO worked out a long-term plan of improving the process of instruction, envisaging demonstration lessons in the most important subjects. The unit's most experienced methodists helped Major Yerin implement this plan.

All lessons proved most interesting and instructive, and

what is particularly important, they helped disclose additional potentialities in the operators' and other leading specialists' tactical training and take them into account in everyday service.

Demonstration lessons in the battalion were held before then, too. But one could often see the battalion's officers watch their commander or his deputies working up training questions, remaining aloof and indifferent to the men's mistakes and training methods.

Major Yerin made up his mind to hold the first lesson in a different way. He began preparing for it well in advance, studying thoroughly the theme and methods to be used. Then he drew up a plan of the lesson, called all officers, and gave them the necessary instructions and recommendations. For instance, Senior Lieutenant V. Gromov was assigned to prepare the simulation equipment, Lieutenant P. Sedakov, the operators' workplaces, and Captain S. Popov, visual aids and reference data on the air attack weapons. Other officers, praporshchiks and sergeants were also given jobs to do.

Now the battalion CO had to decide which battery was to take part in the demonstration lesson. In his opinion the advanced battery could be easily prepared for it in a very short time. But in this case the gap in the batteries' training standard will become still wider. Therefore, he chose Captain Ozolin's battery, whose personnel had only an average professional level.

The practicability of this decision is quite evident. Given the senior commander's help and sufficient time, it was possible to make the subunit one of the best in the battalion.

The purpose of the lesson

was to show the officers the best methods of teaching the operators to perform their specific actions. The first part of the lesson was devoted to studying tactical and technical characteristics of air attack weapons, their combat potentialities, tactics, and also their probable routes and flight profiles. Major Yerin and officers in charge at separate workplaces took utmost care to see that the operators linked this information with the peculiarities of the terrain on which the subunit was stationed.

Having studied the theoretical questions, the trainees got down to implementing them. They were shown the most effective variants of using the simulators to complicate the air situation. Special attention was paid to an attachment for imitating highspeed and manoeuvring targets, which allowed the operators to be trained not only in dealing with difficult, e.g. pinpoint targets, but which also developed their tactical thinking and their ability to react more efficiently and correctly to fluid situations, foresee the target's manoeuvres and make more effective use of their professional skills.

A great deal of attention was given to training the operators in smooth and accurate target tracking, for which purpose another simulator was used.

Major Yerin instructed his assistants to record the specialists' actions with the aid of monitoring equipment in order to disclose their mistakes and eliminate them immediately.

Such a procedure enabled

the operators assimilate the question being studied more deeply and to emulate each other in target tracking. At the end of the lesson the specialists were given the assignment to review the tactical and technical characteristics of air attack weapons and peculiarities of blips produced by multiple and single targets, and of aircraft silhouettes.

The demonstration lesson was followed by a critique, at which Major Yerin reminded the men of the purpose of the lesson and assessed its results. Then officers spoke of the recommended methods, exchanging their opinions on improving them, in particular on the plan and time allotted for such lessons, and logistical support.

After hearing out his subordinates the battalion CO summed up the results. He touched upon the most rational training methods and set specific tasks for conducting such lessons on a crew or platoon level.

Such an approach is very useful, for the battalion CO not only teaches methods to his officers, but also listens to their opinions and takes account of their suggestions, which creates a favourable atmosphere for the officers to take a liking to methods.

It is true that the battalion achieved high results in combat training not only owing to demonstration lessons. There are many other factors ensuring success. What is more important, the entire organisation and the results of combat training in the battalion are now appraised in terms of missile range practice.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

AIRCRAFT LOSES NOSE SECTION DURING FLIGHT

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 11 Oct 83 p 4

[Article by TASS correspondent B. Boblyuk, Red Banner Baltic Military District: "Courage in the Air"]

[Text] An unexpected encounter with ball lightning in the air could have been tragic had it not been for the courage of military pilot Sr Lt Mikhail Anisimov.

The fighter was coming in for a landing after successfully accomplishing the training mission. Only 30 km remained to the airfield and the altitude was 1,200 m. Suddenly blinding white clouds appeared. Mikhail peered attentively at the instruments and saw that everything was in order. He pressed the lever for releasing the landing gear and suddenly there was a strong jolt and immediately a bright flash which blinded the pilot. When the momentary blur passed the pilot corrected the bank and glanced at the instruments. All needles had frozen dead on zero and it was still more than three minutes of flying to the strip.

The aircraft darted from the clouds. Squeezing the controls, the pilot strained his every nerve and tried to direct the fighter onto the line of the runway. The brake parachute popped open and the warplane came to a stop after the landing run.

When Mikhail descended to the hardstand he saw a picture that astounded him: The aircraft had no nose section. Only partially fused edges of metal were sticking out almost at the very edge of the cockpit.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

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NAVAL FORCES

SUBMARINE RESCUE EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Sr Lt A. Veledeyev, Red Banner Northern Fleet: "The Bell is Ready for Lowering!"]

[Text] The exercise took place in a situation as close as possible to one of combat. After the accomplishment of an important training-combat mission the diesel submarine lay on the reverse course. However, on the next deviation of the channel it was "blown up" on a ground acoustic mine and lay on the bottom. In the faded light of the emergency lanterns the submariners initiated the struggle for the survivability of the ship and the technical equipment.

Making an estimate of the situation, the commander made his decision: as soon as the rescuers approach, to lead the personnel out through the escape hatch since some of the compartments proved to be "flooded" as a result of the "damage." On the command from the control center the message buoy is released to the surface. The alarm signal was immediately sent from it.

This is how the second stage of the exercise began for the submariners, the goal of which was improving the ability to operate courageously and steadfastly in the most difficult situation, disregarding risk and danger.

...On the rescue ship "Altay" the general alarms suddenly broke the silence. The vessel takes off for the square where the submarine is "in distress." The commander of the rescue vessel, Captain 3d Rank V. Solov'yev, studies the area of forthcoming operations from the navigator's map. The first thing which attracted his attention was the depth, which does not permit the submariners to leave the ship independently in individual gear. "We have to hurry...", the commander of the "Altay" noted to himself, and he immediately ordered:

"Full speed ahead, prepare rescue bell for lowering!"

Soon the signalmen of the "Altay" discovered the purple flashes of the buoy's light signalling.

In accordance with the situation, the rescuers determine the possibility and method for assisting the submariners. A boat with radio operators is lowered from the side of the vessel. Their mission is to establish telephone communication through the tow cable of the message buoy. And here is the first report

received from beneath the water: "Submarine received considerable battle 'damage,' personnel ready for removal."

Maneuvering skillfully, the commander of the "Altay" exactly places the rescue vessel above the "sunken" submarine. And diver Engineer-Lieutenant A. Vyrelkin takes off for the deep water without losing precious time. He should determine the position of the submarine and the condition of the coaming platform which is intended for connecting the rescue bell. According to the conditions of the exercise, the submarine lay on the bottom with a list to the starboard.

"It will not be easy to emplace the bell," A. Vyrelkin concluded.

Meanwhile, several more divers submerge into the deep water to fasten a guide rope. This is a unique rope road along which the rescue bell which is capable of withstanding the considerable pressure of the deep will ply.

...Hearing the metallic grinding and heavy steps of the divers, the submariners became more lively with the hollow echo resounding within the submarine. Help arrived in time.

The senior staff officer on board the submarine, Engineer-Captain 2d Rank S. Pen'kovskiy, personally checked the condition of the escape hatch and its systems.

...Work also proceeded rhythmically and efficiently on the "Altay."

"The rescue bell is ready for lowering!"

The contactors of the electromagnetic starters were turned on and the winches began to operate. The massive body of the rescue bell slowly submerged into the deep, leaving a pearly sparkling scattering of air bubbles on the wave. In the bell is master of military qualification, Warrant Officer [michman] A. Vasilenko. An experienced deep diver, he has accomplished similar missions many times and demonstrated high skill, courage, and self-control. His breast is rightly adorned with the medal, "For Combat Services."

Each meeting with the deep is always a serious test for people. And so, this time, too, a "surprise" awaited the rescuers. After a storm, in the area of the exercise a powerful underwater current was formed which drifted the rescue bell away from the coaming platform. The first pass proved to be unsuccessful. There was one more attempt with a correction for the force of the current.

"There is link-up," they heard on the deck of the "Altay." The upper and lower hatch lids are undogged. Salt spray began to fall in the stuffy compartment. The evacuation of the personnel from the "sunken" submarine began. The first group was headed by Lieutenant V. Bykov.

Warrant Officer Vasilenko greets the submariners in the rescue bell.

The men had to work strainedly, with the full output of strength, in the course of this exercise. It became an excellent school of courage and skill for the submariners as well as for the crew of the rescue vessel.

NAVAL FORCES

SHORE-BASED TRAINING FOR SUBMARINERS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Capt 1st Rank N. Remizov: "Submariners Drill"]

[Text] A regular drill is taking place in the training room. The officers--students of the Higher Special Officer Classes--as members of the ship's combat sections (KBR) are to work out data and make a decision to avoid the attack of the surface "enemy." Everything occurs almost as at sea. Thoroughly weighing their own capabilities and the capabilities of the opposing side, the conditions for secrecy of sailing are analyzed on each section of the route and the optimum depths of submersion and speed are selected.

It is not for nothing that the classes are called a small academy. Here the students receive comprehensive special and command training. An excellent training-material base permits making the training as close as possible to ship conditions and simulating on a simulator many standard situations which the seamen encounter during exercises and ocean and sea cruises.

The silhouettes of ships and two submarines which are to break through the anti-submarine defense line are moving slowly on the fabric of a screen opposite the rooms in which the sections headed by Captain 3d Rank V. Vishnyakov and Captain-Lieutenant A. Beschastnov are working.

During their service in the fleet, neither officer had to make command decisions. However, it is important for the students to understand and have a deep feeling of the complexity and importance of this process. Only in such a case will they subsequently be able to organize the work of the crew at the proper level and competently work out suggestions for the employment of electronic equipment.

The training of the students is conducted in an integrated manner. In the course of the drill both tactical and special problems are worked out. It is namely for this reason that the actions of the officers are led by two men: Captains 1st Rank Ye. Konovalov and A. Sakseyev. Both did much sailing in the past. Candidate of Naval Sciences Captain 1st Rank Konovalov at one time was the commander of a submarine and completed the academy and postgraduate work, and in the past his colleague was commander of a ship's department and a flag specialist. The students have a great need for the advice of experienced teachers in the difficult situation which developed in the course of the lesson.

...On the screen of the simulator it can be seen how the silhouettes of the ships in a line are moving toward the submarines. If we disregard the conventions which are inevitable in a training room, one can imagine how little time the submariners have to make the optimum decision after weighing all "pro's" and "con's." The section headed by Captain 3d Rank Vishnyakov is the first to begin active operations. Making an estimate of the situation, the officer issues the command to maneuver to leave the zone of search of the antisubmarine warfare people. The mark on the screen which symbolizes the submarine lays on a new course.

But Captain-Lieutenant Beschastnov adopted a different decision. His ship is rushing to break through the antisubmarine defense. At the same time, the KBR prepares for the employment of torpedoes.

Captain 1st Rank Konovalov frowns, observing Beschastnov's actions. Judging from everything, the maneuver undertaken by Vishnyakov is more to his liking. The situation develops in such a way that the submariners can slip away if they use simulation means for camouflage.

The drill finally ended. The students who participated in it hasten to draw the overlays of the maneuvering and prepare demonstration diagrams. In evaluating their work, a large role will be played by the level of staff work and the style and laconicism of the reports.

Captain-Lieutenant Beschastnov is the first to report. The unsuccessful maneuver which he undertook was the result of careless confidence in the navigator. Determining the distance to the antisubmarine warfare [ASW] ships incorrectly, the navigator drew erroneous conclusions from the situation and the acting commander did not consider it necessary to check them. The lesson leaders pointed this out to him.

Training is training. The ability to make responsible decisions and to direct the actions of subordinates clearly does not come automatically. For this, lessons also exist in the program of the Higher Special Officer Classes to generate firm skills and deep professional knowledge in the students.

The section's work was given a low grade. However, this does not mean that the drill was useless. The instructiveness of the qualified critique given by Captains 1st Rank Konovalov and Sakseyev is unquestionable. It is also the grains of knowledge that the students will carry away to the fleet after conclusion of the classes.

The actions of the KBR which was headed by Captain 3d Rank Vishnyakov were better thought out. The commander was well assisted by the combat information center at the head of which Captain-Lieutenant V. Krislatyy worked today. The submariners employed jamming in good time and competently and avoided the "enemy's" pursuit.

The training is continuing. New sections are sent to the simulator. The situation on the screen becomes more difficult. And the skill of the classes' students and their moral-psychological and professional training grow with each new special situation and mission accomplished. Tomorrow these qualities of theirs will render inestimable service to the fleet.

NAVAL FORCES

SHIP COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES, CHARACTER

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Correspondent, Capt 3d Rank V. Chupakhin: "The Uneasy Captain's Bridge"]

[Text] The large anti-submarine warfare [ASW] ship Admiral Yumashev had just made fast to its berth. The short trip had not turned out very successfully for the crew. Operations with aviation were planned, but it began to storm and the weather turned foul. The flights were canceled. The sailors had to spend the time waiting tediously on a restless sea. Finally the planned task was completed. However, considerable effort and nerves were required of the crew.

Knowing this, I expected Capt 2d Rank Petr Pavlovich Khomenko, the ship's commander, to be tired and overstrained. It was to meet him that I had come to the Admiral Yumashev. It is easy to imagine what such a trip to sea means to a commander. It means sleepless nights, dozens of unexpected tactical problems, elaborations, inquiries and reports. But Khomenko seemed hale and hearty, he was carefully shaved, and had on ironed trousers and a jacket with a white stripe of starched collar. Only his tired eyes showed that the events at sea had not been easy for the officer.

Behind all this stood the already well known but still surprising ability of navy commanders to keep their dignity without noticeable effort, right down to the details of outward appearance, bearing and manner of speaking. For example, a ship commander will not say: "The ship set forth to some region..." He will undoubtedly speak in first person: "I set forth..." In anyone else such use of "I" would cause one to think of the speaker as a person excessively self-absorbed. But the "I" of a commander is of a completely different sort. It is the result of the special responsibility placed on the sole commander. An officer who feels this responsibility keenly does not think of himself apart from his ship, and involuntarily identifies with the entire crew in his thoughts and deeds.

I was aware what the commander's "I" means to Khomenko from the better comments I had heard in the navy about the officer. That made it all the more interesting to observe him in his everyday work and concerns. A critique of the past trip was taking place in the wardroom of the Admiral Yumashev. It turned out that the penetrating gaze of the commander had noticed numerous shortcomings during the voyage. One of the department commanders caught it in particular.

When Khomenko called upon him to speak, the officer stood, lowered his eyes, and began haltingly: "We overlooked things and some of our comrades are falling short..." Khomenko interrupted the officer:

"Try to express yourself as a commander. Not 'we overlooked things', and 'we are falling short,' but I overlooked, and I, the commander, must work better."

And on the spot he gave an object-lesson.

"We talk a bit too much, comrades, about objective difficulties. Yes, sometimes the aviators could not support us due to the weather. But couldn't this possibility have been foreseen? Wouldn't it have been possible to think through what exercises and training we could have conducted ourselves in case that happened? It turns out that the training at sea was not conducted at maximum effectiveness, and that is our fault. More specifically, yours, comrade department and group commanders. Still more specifically, my own.

The duty of ship commander is special. His range of concerns is unusually broad. It is enough to say that the list of commander's duties occupies more than 20 pages in the Navy Shipboard Regulations. The position which a ship commander holds in the entire organization of the navy, especially the commander of a ship of the rank of the Admiral Yumashev, is also especially significant. He commands an independent combat entity, and enjoys a great degree of independence in accomplishing difficult, large scale missions, especially those which must be resolved while isolated from bases and control organs. This is why no matter how deeply the flagship is involved in the affairs of the crew and no matter how often the staff and political department inspect the ship, the commander himself must know with particular precision the real picture of the ship's combat readiness. His own reports and evaluations are the most important foundation for evaluating the crew and the commander himself. And in this connection, the commander's integrity, high principles and honesty -- his conscience -- are so very important.

At times one has occasion to see how some seemingly capable, promising ship commanders are ruined by the temptation of easy victory and the fraudulent mirage of a favorable rating percentage. To give in to this is the easiest thing imaginable. Just act against one's conscience ever so slightly, increase a subordinate's rating a little, permit a few more pre-arranged tasks in an exercise. Who will find out about it? And success is but a step away, quick and easy, and with it honors, pleasant feeling pride and recognition. It is just that all of this is short-lived. And then one sees an officer who, as they say, only yesterday was in the saddle, but already today is without a future, having not justified the trust placed in him. And only those commanders who take the difficult road are truly promising.

Capt 2d Rank Khomenko is among these. The Admiral Yumashev, which he has commanded for almost three years, is always among the best in his unit, and in the whole navy. Characteristic is the fact that, although Khomenko replaced such an exacting commander as Capt 2d Rank A. Stefanov, it seemed at first that he was "turning the screws" too much. But "turning the screws" is not his method at all. He never raises his voice and never hastens to punish a

subordinate. In general he resorts to punishment only in exceptional circumstances. Outwardly Khomenko is even too gentle and pleasant for a commander.

Then what caused the impression that he was too strict? It resulted from Khomenko's own brand of uncompromising attitude with regard to assessments and self-assessments of military work, to which some personnel were unaccustomed. Here there is not the slightest gentleness in him, only a maximally firm line: absolutely no hushing up any disciplinary faults of the crew, no indulgences in ratings or allowances made to the authorities.

There is something of the romantic in Khomenko. Once the crew was about to do torpedo firing. Capt Lt Ya. Khokhlov, commander of the ship's ordnance and torpedo department, a most knowledgeable specialist, prepared the necessary documents as always so that seemingly not a thing could be said against them. But Khomenko knitted his brow as he studied them:

"Everything is correct, but we have already fired in this way."

Khokhlov, offended, frowned:

"And how should we do it?"

"Let's fire like no one has ever fired." And the commander expressed several interesting views.

Khokhlov was excited and after a few days brought a new copy. Looking at it, Khomenko did not conceal his satisfaction:

"Beautiful!"

The unusual position of the firing ship gave a minimum time for attack. Intricate work was required in order to implement all this.

"Beautiful," repeated Khomenko and sighed. "Too bad we are not yet ready for this level of work. But, on the other hand, now we know what to strive for."

A year later the Admiral Yumashev accomplished this most difficult firing.

"One must be sincere in his work," Khomenko often repeated to his subordinates. He had learned this same sincerity and honesty in service from his mentors, in particular from such men now well known in the navy as Vice Adm V. Zub and Capt 1st Rank A. Koval'chuk. Today he teaches these lessons in sincerity and honesty to those who serve under him.

A man who has great goals must have associates. Khomenko established good contact and mutual understanding with the ship's political officer, Capt 3d Rank A. Borzenkov. He receives constant assistance and support from the party organization, which selects concerned and seeking people. But, of course, the commander would like the entire crew, or at least all of the officers, to be his associates.

This is not a simple matter. Life in the navy is dynamic. The composition of the officer's wardroom, and consequently its atmosphere, are difficult to keep stable for a long period of time. Understanding this, another commander behaves simply: he tries to keep a good officer by every means possible, even if it hampers his career progression, and tries to rid himself of a poor one under any pretext. But what does Khomenko do? He himself plays an active role in seeing that one of his best subunit commanders, Capt Lt Khokhlov, is assigned as a staff officer, and literally rises up against the reassignment from the ship of Capt 3d Rank A. Voronov, who had hitherto served listlessly and without initiative and was seeking shore duty. Khomenko was offered a good candidate from off-ship to take the position of senior engineer of one of the subunits, but he made sure that the vacancy was saved for Capt Lt N. Guglyar, who had served on the Admiral Yumashev in his initial duty position for six years with no particular reward.

"Khomenko is odd," one of his commander colleagues says, shrugging his shoulders. No, he is not at all odd. He is carrying out his own policy here as well. Yes, it is too bad he had to depart with Khokhlov, and no doubt it would have been easier without Voronov. But for Khomenko it was more important in these instances that those who are serving and will serve on the ship know that he who does the most for the crew will always reap the greatest rewards. The incident with Guglyar is also not without its underlying cause. Khomenko is convinced that one must seek to promote primarily from within one's own crew. This opens future prospects for people, so necessary for everyone, especially the many lieutenants now on the Admiral Yumashev.

By the way, lieutenants are a commander's special concern. Unfortunately, some come from school unprepared for lengthy shipboard duty, and lack ardor for the bridge. What can he do as commander? He can captivate them by command training and make the watches which they serve on the bridge an interesting and informative school. But the main factor in his educating influence is the commander's personal communication with the lieutenants. Khomenko has seen this repeatedly.

I recall this story. Once the officers from Cabin 17 bought a television set. So what, it seemed. Lieutenants are bachelors, and their cabin is home. But the commander noticed that very soon the officers' wardroom became empty during off hours. The young people's center had imperceptibly moved to Cabin 17.

Soon thereafter Khomenko remained in the wardroom after evening tea, talking with the officers. A fiasco awaited him. Only the "veterans" of the ship remained. The rest, having asked permission, hurried to the cabin. But Khomenko did not become upset. He repeated his attempts time and again. He tried to begin talking with the officers about things which interested them, and then about the things which really trouble the crew and are central to their service. And the television in Cabin 17 was forgotten.

Khomenko believes that the lieutenants will develop into good department commanders, and perhaps even ship commanders. Already today his pride is Sr Lt S. Avakyants, the best watch officer on the ship. Sr Lts V. Marshev and A. Kononovich are most promising. The lieutenants will be true seamen, and

will serve the navy with dedication. It is only necessary not to spare his own efforts, and to imbue in each of them a part of his commander's "I".

The Admiral Yumashev stayed at base less than 24 hours. In the evening a special order came to go to sea. The general alarm bells began to peal imperiously. The ship's bridge again awaited Khomenko. However, in reality he was always there. For Communist Khomenko, bearer of the order "For Service to the Homeland in the USSR Armed Forces" 3d Class, the high, uneasy ship's bridge is not only the place from which he directs the crew and gives commands, but it is the summit of his life, from which he assesses all of his work and actions.

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NAVAL FORCES

UNDERWATER EVACUATION EXERCISE DISCUSSED

Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 30, 25-31 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by Aleksandr and Yuriy Anatol'yev, Red Banner Black Sea Fleet: "Rescuers"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] At 1346 hours the air was punctured by a series in Morse code. The duty radio operator received a signal: In the N-th square a submarine suffered damage and is lying on the bottom....

After the narrow bay which was squeezed on all sides by hills with small white houses on the slopes, the sea opened up in all its splendor broadly and solemnly, and like an old good friend it cheerfully threw open its expanses.

Sensing freedom, the "Kazbek" increased its revolutions, and the feather from its propellers rose above the stern and the deck began to tremble slightly beneath the feet. It could not be believed that just an hour ago we talked peacefully with seaman at the wharf.

In a fraction of a second howlers tore the oppressive quietude, and the ship began to rumble under dozens of running feet. An alarm always makes an impression among military people with readiness, self-control, and speed. On the ship, the swift execution of commands simply strikes one. The seamen fly up the steep ladders with the ease of squirrels and they rush into the holds as if the attraction of gravity does not exist for them. Let us say directly, circus skill.

SUBMARINE: A powerful blow threw me against the bulkhead. I struck my back so that respiration was constricted. But there was no time to feel sorry for myself. The sea gushed into the compartment in streams from all sides.

It is a good thing that on the ship each compartment is equipped with everything necessary to plug holes. We began to work....

It seemed that for an entire hour we only succeeded in making the patches but, in fact, considerably less time had passed; otherwise the water would have accumulated not "up to the knees," but "above the head."

By the way, that elimination of "damage" was a training problem. And it took place at a UTS (training station)--a unique purgatory for each seaman, all the more a submariner. Through the transparent plastic of the tank I saw the smiling face of Aleksandr for whom the procedure of combating holes was optional. He was to "rescue" me.

At that time the pleasant sun shone from the outside and the little body of water was warm as milk. Now it was a different matter. More than 100 meters of water overhead. And when the submarine lay on the bottom the illumination was cut off. And our compartment became far from the same comfortable place.

One could emerge to the surface through the torpedo tube--not a new thing. But under these conditions this was impossible due to the bends (with a sudden pressure differential the blood begins to boil).

It is necessary to wait for help from the surface. There is one consolation: the rescuers' service is well-grounded, they strain every nerve but they will raise you....

"KAZBEK": The sea which just a few minutes ago seemed to be velvety and warm now breathed with cold and it had become noticeably cooler on the poop.

And really, the equipment which appeared on the deck--not gay bathing suits: immense green rubber diving dress, brass helmets darkened from salt, boots with lead soles. I test them for weight--oho!--something near a pood in each. It is clear why the proprietors of this outfit--the deep divers-- are fellows chosen and strong. Among the tutors of the Black Sea there were probably such as they in the crew....

From the commands which are ringing out, I understand that we are in the assigned square. This means that the echo sounders found the submarine.

Work was in full swing on the poop. Four were preparing for diving. Two will work in the deep and two will do safety work.

"For the rescuers, at times everything is decided instantaneously," Captain-Lieutenant Kulakov comments on the quick work of the divers, "and for the deep divers even an exercise is a fully realistic matter, for the pressure there, down below, does not decrease. Therefore, they prepare thoroughly for any dive...."

SUBMARINE: If you put on the headphones of the sonarman, you are immediately submerged into a world of noises: you hear the whistle of the dolphins, the rustle of the schools of fish which are rushing by--what a unique symphony of the sea.

Our sonarmen intersected on the surface a ship which is obsessively combing the sea above us. We cut into everything which can make a noise. We strike the bulkheads and help the fellows who are above.

The engines of the rescuer stopped. It looks as if they heard us.

That's good!

Thus far, breathing is tolerable, but the cold is beginning to strike. Well, if we only had a cup of broth now.

"KAZBEK": The sea has a fickle disposition. Right now, the weather is worsening right before our eyes. The roughness intensified. And this was not opportune.

They lower an observation chamber that looks like an amphora over the side. It is something like a single-place bathyscaphe. In it, one can descend into the deep, observe the relief of the bottom, and see what work must be done.

The assistant for rescue operations, Senior Lieutenant Oleg Deyev, takes off on reconnaissance.

I had to descend in this apparatus. Touching the water, the chamber begins to twist like a top. At first you feel as if you are on a spinning stool. Bubbles of air rush upward along the porthole. The water becomes darker with each meter. The rotation stops. Only variegated jellyfish swim past the thick windows.

The chamber is supplied with powerful searchlights which permit inspecting an object at a great depth..

A television camera can also be lowered from on board. It will transmit an underwater panorama to the rescuer.

And here is the submarine--it is lying without heel and trim on a rocky plateau. The scout reached the bottom and reports the situation:

"Depth...meters, The conning tower sail is damaged...."

The submarine is laying in the seaweed like an immobile cigar, illuminated by the searchlights as if on a motion picture screen. A platform with the divers hovered alongside. Senior Seaman Aleksey Ponomar' left it. The commander of the diver section, Petty Officer 2d Class Rodion Gilas, remained for insurance.

SUBMARINE: In the darkness, time loses its swiftness and becomes leisurely. It drags and drags....

What is it?

Hoorah!

Someone is "strolling" over the submarine's plating. The sound of the steps leaves no doubt as to whom they belong. Even the light tap of maidens' heels does not cause such enchanting hopes as the roar of the divers' boots.

THE SEA BOTTOM: Aleksey fastened the steel end of a stern buoy to the hull of the submarine.

Meanwhile, one more group of divers fastens an enormous rescue bell above the access hatch of the submarine; it was lowered from the "Kazbek." It is really a bell--a tremendous diving bell. The crew of the submarine should transfer to it. There we find constant pressure and temperature.

SUBMARINE: Ah, how good--you take a deep breath. Evidently, they fastened a hose to the submarine and are driving through it what we need most now--air. Only in such an extreme situation can one understand that there is nothing more sacred than comradeship, naval brotherhood....

"KAZBEK": The barometer predicts--there will be a storm soon. The stern of the "Kazbek" kicked strongly. The cables which had been lowered to the submarine became entangled and the danger of a break arose....

I look at the chief of the salvage and rescue service of the Black Sea Fleet, Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Vasil'yevich Zhbanov, He is conducting the exercise today. He issues commands calmly and confidently. The commander of the "Kazbek," maneuvering skillfully, relaxed the tension.

The commander's responsibility is great. In order to evaluate it, try to look at the Navy Regulations. In it, more than 50 articles are devoted to the commander's basic duties. It is also the necessity to know to perfection the laws of navigation and tactics and to observe naval traditions. On an ocean cruise the commander on the ship is the state's ambassador. And he, as is written in the regulations, "proceeds in accordance with his own discretion in cases not envisioned by regulations and orders, conforming with circumstances and observing the interests and dignity of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics...."

"Did something unforeseen happen in your service?" I asked Aleksandr Vasil'yevich on shore.

"Anything happened," answered Zhbanov. "The sea is the sea. The elements. You don't foresee everything. And you speak with the seamen. Although they are young, they have also been in some fine messes--they are deep divers!..."

"In the sea, and moreover in diving work, one should prepare for the unexpected ahead of time," recalls Senior Seaman Aleksey Ponomar'. "Once I went out to dive. We descended several dozen meters. My partner was Viktor Pyatak. He was taken aback by want of practice--it was dark all around and it was difficult to move. In general, he became entangled in the cable and pulled the hoses.

"The chief of the ship's salvage and rescue service, Captain-Lieutenant Kuznetsov, transmits to me:

"See what is happening to Viktor...."

"I walk around the platform and look: he is lying down. I ventilated his diving suit and brought him around. Well, afterwards it was a matter of equipment...."

FROM THE AUTHORS: In the accomplishment of various operations the equipment here is excellent.

Everyone knows what eye and skill a crane operator who is working on the assembly of complex structural elements should have. But the crane operator has an excellent view. The deep diver must work under conditions of greatly restricted visibility, one can say, blindly. And in addition, tremendous pressure hampers

movement. And many operations, for example, twisting a nut, which take seconds on land and require no efforts are done with difficulty beneath the water. It is even difficult to breathe in the customary meaning of this word. At great depths, a person seems to drink a respiratory mixture.

By the way, divers do not like to complain about the burdens of their service. By the way, after release to the reserve Aleksey Ponomar' intends to go to work as a diver. And really, he is not alone....

SUBMARINE: The divers fastened the bell. After sluicing the command arrives to leave the submarine. We crawl into the bell. The dim bulb which is burning in it is like the Sun for us.

The hatch is battened down.

It feels as though we landed on a merry-go-round. You know it is like this: you stand in it shoulder to shoulder in a circle and it begins to spin. And that is how it swings.

It was as if they went for a ride....

"KAZBEK": The bell came to the surface of the water, joyfully sparkling in the sun with its portholes. Several more simple manipulations, and it is on the deck.

Yuriy appears from the hatch. He is literally smiling from ear to ear. He was lifted with the first party like a guest. We embrace as if we hadn't seen each other for several years.

We will tell about impressions later....

The next group of divers is preparing for a descent. The exercises are continuing.

6367

CSO: 1801/488

NAVAL FORCES

LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE NAVY DESCRIBED

Moscow SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW in English No 9, Sep 83 pp 46-47

[Article by B. Viktorov]

[Text]

Even during the war, in severe frontline circumstances the Soviet Command paid serious attention to the conditions of the officers and men. Reminiscences of the Soviet military leaders, front-line soldiers, documents of the war years prove this. Thus, a directive of a political department issued late in 1943 and addressed to the political workers read in part:

"It is necessary to display constant concern for the preservation of the soldiers' strength and health. Regular, uninterrupted provision for the men of hot meals and boiled water should be an inviolable rule. It is vital to exercise the strictest control to see that everything the state issues to the officers and men should invariably reach them. People who are careless and slack in this respect will be held strictly responsible for their actions."

Concern for the welfare of the servicemen is a manifestation of the policy pursued by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. The cardinal aim of this policy is maximum satisfaction of the people's material and cultural needs.

The living conditions of the officers and men are an important factor contributing to the combat readiness of the land and sea forces. For instance, ships of the Soviet Navy make extended ocean cruises. Therefore, it is important to maintain the morale and keep up the physical strength of the crews so that they would be able, at all times, not only to stand up to tremendous physical and psychological stresses, but also to accomplish the most difficult missions.

Living conditions on a ship is a broad term. It covers provision of meals, clothing and medical services, and creation of the best possible conditions for the performance of service duties.

The material and living conditions of Soviet servicemen, including naval personnel, are being constantly improved. The Soviet state adequately meets their needs. The commanders and political workers see to it that all supplies and other means made available to the officers and men are

used effectively to improve the conditions of the servicemen.

In 1977 a special All-Army Conference was held on the improvement of the welfare and living conditions of the forces. Its recommendations were of considerable practical assistance to the commanders, political workers and personnel of the fleet logistical services.

Based on the results of scientific research, the pertinent authority drafted sanitary health standards which naval architects and designers take into account in designing new ships. Thanks to the creative cooperation of scientists, engineers, designers and medical personnel the habitability standards aboard ships are being steadily improved. The modern Soviet warship — whether it is a cruiser, submarine, landing or antisubmarine ship — is rightly regarded as a floating home.

The cabins and crew's accommodations are cosy and clean. The ventilation and heating systems are effective. The wardrooms are attractively decorated. The officers assemble here for meals and also relax, when off duty. At sea the wardroom is also used as a working room by officers. They can gather in it for official functions and for leisure. They exchange views and chat here. The commanders, political workers and Party activists try to keep it clean, to maintain within it an atmosphere of goodwill and comradely concern.

Much is being done to improve the diet of the personnel aboard ships. Here too the pertinent authority took into account scientific recommendations. Naval rations are characterised by adequate calorific value.

Submarine crews are subject not only to physical strain. They have to spend many days running in the close quarters of their ships. These factors tend to exercise a negative effect on the men's appetite. That is why the submarine rations are extremely varied. They include (taking into account possible substitutes) over 70 items.

However, in the provision of meals aboard a ship, more than in any other department of the supply service, a lot depends on the personal initiative of the officers and men concerned. Here is a case in point. While the patrol ship **Bezukoriznenny** was visiting a foreign port, a customary reception ceremony was held on board. After the function one of the guests approached Captain 3rd Rank Yu. Rykov, commanding officer, and introduced himself as the owner of a local hotel. He said:

"I own a hotel and know a good meal when I see one. Admit that the meal you served us was prepared in a restaurant."

The commanding officer was compelled to introduce Mitchman I. Mishchenko, the ship's chief cook, to the guest. He was a master of his trade, of course, author of many recipes. The dishes he makes give pleasure to the entire crew. There has never been a complaint or even expressions of displeasure about the quality of the food regardless of the conditions of the cruises.

The navy pays serious attention to the training of ship's cooks. The nominees are trained at special classes. Once in

a while at more or less regular intervals ship's cooks' conferences are held at which they share their "secrets" with one another.

Auxiliary farms make a major contribution to improvement of rations. As a rule, an officer of the supply service heads the farm which grows vegetables and fattens porkers. Such farms play a particularly large role in improving diets in the Far North and the Far East.

The garment making industry has considerably improved the quality of naval uniforms and special work clothes. Each officer and man has several uniforms, namely full-dress, semi-dress, service and fatigue dress. There are also many various types of special and protective clothing which is being constantly improved, for the weaponry, combat equipment and service conditions are changing, too.

Servicemen, just like all Soviet citizens, enjoy free medical service. Medical checkups for seamen and petty officers are conducted regularly twice a year, before the winter and summer training periods. The purpose is to establish the physical condition and development of the crews and to identify those who need treatment or simply recreation before a ship is sent on an extended ocean cruise. Officers, mitchmans (commissioned warrant officers) and extended service petty officers are required to undergo a medical checkup at least twice a year. The medical officer reports to the commanding officer the results of the checkup and his proposals for the execution of necessary measures for improving the health of the crew.

It is also the duty of the medical officer to monitor the conditions in the crew's accommodations, and in the working rooms, to check the quality of the food, change of underclothes, attendance of the bath and the ships water supply.

Other officers of the ship contribute to the crew's welfare and good living conditions. However, the main role here is played by the commanding officer. He is the master of the ship, so to say, and all matters aboard, including those bearing on the welfare and living conditions are his concern.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitry F. Ustinov, Minister of Defence of the USSR, said:

"In dealing with matters of material and everyday support of the forces it is vital always to see the purpose of all this effort. Our purpose is to ensure a high level of combat readiness..."

This is the approach displayed in the Soviet Navy towards these questions.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

STRUCTURE OF CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION BRIGADES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Reserve Engr-Col A. Nekhamkin, Red Banner Baltic Military District: "The Brigade's Reliable Right Arm"]

[Text] "It is well known that cost accounting at military construction projects has its own special characteristics. Composite brigades working on contract have now been created everywhere. It would be interesting to read in the paper about their structure, the amount of work they are accomplishing, and what problems they are confronting." (From the speech of Soviet Army worker A. Tat'yanin at the Readers' Conference.)

The contract brigade led by Soviet Army worker A. Galeyev, bearer of the order "Mark of Honor," has repeatedly taken prizes at the All-Union Socialist Competition of Military Construction Personnel.

Anatoliy Grigor'yevich Galeyev was one of the first to introduce work experience according to the method of Hero of Socialist Labor N. Zlobin. It was not easy for him then. With each new call-up, soldiers joined his brigade who, in most cases, had no understanding at all of construction work. Therefore, it was decided to organize the cost accounting brigade so that it had no more than a 25 percent personnel turnover following each call-up. An optimum brigade strength of 25-30 personnel was also established.

Soon, in addition to brick laying and ceiling and stairwell construction, the brigade began to do other work: installing window frames and sills, and plastering heat ducts. Specialists with related skills joined the brigade. Thus a composite cost accounting brigade was formed.

The military construction personnel began to master their specialties in an initial training school which was created in the brigade itself. The period of training is up to three months. Practical exercises follow the study of theory. A training norm is determined for each military construction soldier. A week goes by, then another. The norm is raised and the qualitative requirements are increased. Thus, step by step the novices progress toward accomplishing the full norm. Once they pass their tests the soldiers are awarded a certificate as specialists second class. After the young soldiers complete their initial training school, the brigade returns to its customary organizational structure.

At first the brigade foreman and specialists from the Office of the Work Supervisor (UNR) had to work hard to find acceptable forms of cost accounting brigades. Now it is rightfully said that the best form of brigade on military construction projects is what we call the mixed structure. The brigade works with military construction personnel and civilian Soviet Army workers.

We met Anatoliy Grigor'yevich at the work site. Our first impression was of the orderliness of everything here. Brick pallets, floor slabs, bins for mortar and bricks, and other materials were arranged to be always at hand. The team of brick layers is led by Jr Sgts D. Dzhumagal'diyev and B. Kadamov and PFC D. Gordiyenko. The erectors work with them in a team which includes a welder and carpenter.

The brigade's other team is a sort of general purpose team. It assembles floor slabs and installs window frames and sills. The set-up team also has important duties. Private G. Dzhepa leads the team. He is a sort of dispatcher for the whole brigade. On the eve of the work day the set-up team receives its job, and in the morning it arrives along with the crane operators an hour before the shift. During this time it hurries to bring bricks to the work places and move the scaffolding. That is, it prepares everything necessary so that the brigade can set to work without delay.

Construction work stagnates without a tower crane. However, the UNR leases it, and thus it does not pay for the work of the crane operator. This caused a paradox: the crane operator worked in one UNR but was paid in another. Understandably, he had no material interest in a high quality final result.

One day Galeyev suggested that the crane operator's shift reports be tied to the brigade's shift wage payment. Say that the bricklayers fulfilled their daily work by 150 percent. The wages of the bricklayers, and of the crane operator, would be correspondingly increased. Thus the effect of the coefficient of labor participation is distributed to all. Then the crane operator would strive to maintain the crane in good repair and deliver materials to the workers on time. The foreman's suggestion was adopted and now work is being accomplished more amicably.

Therefore, it is not accidental that the brigade built a residence a month earlier than set in the agreement. Wages earned on this building averaged 168 percent of the norm.

Under present conditions, development of collective forms of labor in production collectives is becoming especially important. In the brigade the personality of each member is formed and tempered, and favorable conditions are created for displaying the creative energy and labor activeness of both the entire collective and its individual member. Practice shows that brigades engaged in single project work also have much firmer labor discipline.

The experience of leading workers is being persistently introduced into production. In 1983, several cost accounting collectives are already working in the UNR led by Engr-Maj V. Vlasov. These include the cost accounting platoon of finishers commanded by Warrant Officer I. Tkachuk. It includes three brigades

of painter-plasterers and one brigade of carpenters. The platoon committed itself at the end of last year, for example, to complete finishing work on two entrances of a nine-story house and open them for use. In three and a half months, the military collective completed construction and assembly work paying them 100,000 rubles. Finishers in the UNR had never before achieved such high wages. This collective is also working productively during the third year of the five-year plan.

The effect of brigade contracting is at hand. But the UNR command and its party committee, headed by Reserve Colonel Yu. Anan'yev, is not resting on its laurels, but is continuing to search for internal production reserves. It also has some difficulties. Accounting for the materials used by the brigades is still poorly organized. This means that it is not possible to precisely compute savings.

Another problem is not solved. Bonuses and wages are distributed by a council of foremen in which the platoon commander plays an important role. But he himself is not among those receiving incentive awards, although he devotes considerable effort and energy toward attaining a high quality final result. This is the regulation on cost accounting brigades now followed in military construction projects. Clearly it does not completely meet today's needs.

With regard to this, the regulation also does not reflect the role of instructors from among the civilian specialists in military construction brigades, or the relationship with the workers served by equipment and machinery. The legal position of section managers, senior foremen and expert workmen also has not been clarified. For brigade cost accounting to "work" at full capacity also depends greatly on them.

Each year brigade contracting gains strength at military construction projects, and its forms are modified and improved. The Zlobin method has proved its viability also under the conditions of military construction collectives. It is now a matter of bringing up to the level attained those normative documents which of course in the first stage could not take into account all the details of this large and complex matter.

9069

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DOSAAF

DOSAAF CENTRAL AUDITING COMMISSION TIGHTENS FINANCIAL CONTROL

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 28 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by G. Tomilin, chairman of USSR DOSAAF Central Auditing Commission: "Implement what the DOSAAF Congress Planned!: Stricter Control and Higher Responsibility"]

[Text] Auditing commissions are a great controlling force in the Society. Where their work is skillfully directed and fully supported it produces real results.

The USSR DOSAAF Central Auditing Commission exercises control and gives help to central organizations and enterprises through its active influence on the strengthening of finance discipline, through the struggle against poor management and extravagance, and by taking steps to stop the improper expenditure of funds and physical assets. We also keep an unrelenting eye on the fulfillment of financial and production plans and over the thrifty use of raw materials, other materials and energy resources.

The following procedure has been established in the commission. Specific suggestions are drawn up based on materials of each audit, aimed at remedying the violations and deficiencies revealed and preventing them in the future. We present audit results with substantiated conclusions for examination of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee. As a rule we place the suggestions based on audit documents under supervision. All this increases the effectiveness of inspections.

Commission members also fulfilled their public duty vigorously in the present year. Auditing groups of 7-9 persons set up for the inspection period for each installation ensured the timely conduct of 10 documentary audits of the financial-management activity of five production enterprises, four central clubs and an administrative subunit of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee.

What did the audits show? On the whole the attitude of leaders and financial workers toward economic activity became more serious and their sense of responsibility for observing finance and staff discipline improved. But indifference toward violations still is being shown in places. This usually leads to abuses. For example, the auditing group headed by B. Yershov, deputy chairman of the USSR DOSAAF Central Auditing Commission, encountered

such facts in an inspection of the USSR Central Parachute Air Club. Here the club chief and senior bookkeeper poorly supervised the observance of legislative and normative documents. In particular there were violations in payment to club workers for flying hours, hourly wage rates for vehicle drivers were inflated, and categories were incorrectly established for workers and employees on being accepted for work. As a result wages amounting to over 1,100 rubles were paid out illegally in just a few months. Club chief V. Ozolin was reprimanded and his pay was docked for the violations committed.

Comrades L. Zaytseva, Yu. Zamkova, M. Naumov and Yu. Sidorov worked assiduously under the leadership of commission deputy chairman A. Khan'kov in the USSR DOSAAF Central Automobile and Motorcycle Club. They uncovered very substantial deficiencies in accounting and issuance of sports property and spare parts for automobiles and motorcycles. They gave on-the-spot assistance in imposing strict order in this matter.

The bureau of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Presidium adopted a decree based on results of the audit of the Central Automobile and Motorcycle Club. It defined steps for more effective use of material and financial resources for holding competitions and courses. R. Shvetsov, chief of the TsAMK [Central Automobile and Motorcycle Club] and senior bookkeeper N. Kartseva took an understanding attitude toward the commission's suggestions and are taking specific steps to remedy deficiencies.

The commission is giving careful attention to inspections of financial activity at DOSAAF enterprises. Central plants are coping with the production program and each year produce profits of some six million rubles. Their production volume is increasing and now comprises 27 million rubles. Labor productivity is rising and the quality of manufactured articles also is improving. At the same time our commission regularly notes that technical and economic indicators at the enterprises are not high enough. Planned goals for profits are being understated in particular. At the same time they are being overstated in places for the wage fund. Infractions of staff and finance discipline are allowed because of careless planning. There are many enterprises not fulfilling plans for introducing new technology. And not all is well with the quality of articles or fulfillment of plans based on the most important products list and sale of finished products.

Resolutions of the 26th party congress and the November 1982 and June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenums on a comprehensive saving of resources, thrift and safekeeping of socialist property demand that enterprise heads as well as the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Production Enterprises Directorate increase responsibility for fulfillment of plans, take up matters of economics more thoughtfully and improve planning.

In struggling for effectiveness of control the commission checks fulfillment of its suggestions stemming from audit results. This increases the sense of responsibility of officials for remedying identified deficiencies and preventing them further. For example, repeat inspections of the Shakhtinsk Aviation Repair Plant, the Central Glider Air Club and the DOSAAF Central Trade and Supply Base helped impose order in many sectors of financial-management activity.

Of course everything is not yet going smoothly in the work of our auditing groups. Some audits were insufficiently detailed and little attention was given to the safekeeping of public property, questions of labor legislation, or correctness in applying normative documents on payment of bonuses and supplementary payments. At some enterprises they performed a poor analysis of planning and economic work and were not thorough enough in inspecting production technology, product quality or the actual expenditure of raw materials and other materials. There was a detailed discussion at a commission session about these and other deficiencies in auditing work.

Certain personnel matters also require resolution for imposing exemplary order in all areas of economic activity. It is extremely important to improve the selection and indoctrination of workers holding materially responsible positions. At times the heads of DOSAAF organizations and enterprises are not very fastidious in selecting such cadres. As a result people who are insufficiently trained, who lack initiative and who at times are simply dishonest get into economic work. The selection, training and reinforcement of accounting and bookkeeping workers also requires serious attention. Their sense of responsibility must be raised for the quality and validity of accounting, an improvement in control and perfection of the entire economic mechanism. More concern must be shown to developing financial workers' irreconcilability toward deficiencies, and to an expansion and deepening of their ideological-political and theoretical outlook.

A very important duty of auditing commissions is to check regularly the deadlines and correctness of examining letters, complaints and petitions. This year the USSR DOSAAF Central Auditing Commission checked the passage of letters in directorates and departments of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee and editorial offices of the journal RADIO. On our suggestion the bureau of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Presidium adopted a decree. Discussion of this matter showed that work with letters had improved considerably on the whole but there still were many deficiencies. From year to year letter-signals come from some oblasts about abuses of official position by some heads of DOSAAF organizations. Letters about instances of poor management and violations of financial and staff discipline also generate concern.

Unfortunately the number of letters about abuses is not yet decreasing. In order to put a stop to violations promptly the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee regularly makes on-the-spot checks of the most acute letters and takes strict steps toward officials who have allowed mismanagement. For example, recently the results of inspections based on statements about substantial deficiencies in the work of the Krasnoyarsk Kraykom and the Kurgan and Orenburg obkoms of DOSAAF were examined at the bureau of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Presidium. The chairmen of these committees, Yu. Konev, Yu. Matyukhin, Zh. Veshnyakov and G. Shalyt were strictly punished for infractions in financial-management work.

Results of inspections based on letters to the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee about serious deficiencies in the financial-management activity of a number of DOSAAF committees once again confirm the need for a considerable improvement in organization of control-auditing work locally and for a conscientious

attitude toward the assigned job by accounting and bookkeeping workers. It is no secret that some of our committees and organizations take up a study of the reasons and conditions causing complaints and statements about abuses and deficiencies in work only on occasion. At times they are late in providing a fundamental evaluation of workers who have allowed mismanagement or the illegal expenditure of material and financial resources.

All our organizations, clubs and enterprises have many reserves for improving financial-management activity and for a resolute struggle against misappropriations, additions and eyewash. All auditors and the accounting and bookkeeping staff must take an active position in resolving these problems. It is important to remedy omissions in control immediately and rivet attention on unresolved matters. We all are obligated to implement successfully requirements of the 9th All-Union DOSAAF Congress on strengthening financial discipline and the efficiency and effectiveness of control and auditing work.

6904

CSO: 1801/65

DOSAAF

BOOK REVIEW: PEOPLE'S CONTROL IN DOSAAF ORGANIZATIONS

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 19 Oct 83 p 4

[Review by L. Sorokin of book "Narodnyy kontrol' v DOSAAF" (People's Control in DOSAAF) by B. A. Kulikov and Yu. P. Grachev, Moscow, DOSAAF, 1983: "Bookshelf: Spot Inspections by Scouts"; passages rendered in all capital letters printed in boldface in source]

[Text] The party's demands for the rational and most effective use of material and financial resources and for control over results of economic operation at all levels of the economy also directly concern the Defense Society, which has considerable physical assets and finances.

The pamphlet entitled "Narodnyy kontrol' v DOSAAF" tells about the day-to-day work of people's control posts and groups set up in the DOSAAF central committees of union republics, in Society kraykoms and obkoms, training and sports organizations and enterprises.

V. I. Lenin pointed out that "TO INSPECT PEOPLE AND INSPECT THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF A JOB--in this, once more in this, and only in this now is the essence of all work and all politics." The task he advanced more than 60 years ago has been and remains the heart of control and the check of execution in our time as well in all areas of national economic and social development. The demand of the 26th CPSU Congress on the role and importance of all-encompassing people's control over the work of management entities and officials is in consonance with Lenin's guideline.

The book's authors reveal the experience of DOSAAF people's control posts and groups in applying the CPSU Central Committee Decree "On Steps for Further Improvement of the Work of People's Control Entities and for Reinforcing Party Leadership of Them in Connection with Adoption of the Law on People's Control in the USSR." Examples of many posts and groups are used to show how control is exercised in the Society with their help over fulfillment of Communist Party and Soviet government resolutions and the decrees of DOSAAF's leading entities.

The chapter entitled "Prescribed by Law" sets forth in detail the tasks, rights and duties of people's control posts and groups in the DOSAAF system

and the nature of their relationships with the heads of installations being supervised. Here too the authors provide information about legislation on protecting the rights of people's controllers and on the procedure for giving them incentives.

The pamphlet is filled with a vast amount of factual material which is of no small value for the scouts. The chapters entitled "Privy to Everything" and "Principle and Competency" cover thoroughly the working practice of people's control groups and posts of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee, the Moscow city organization, the Leningrad Patriot Production Association, the Shakhtinsk and Moscow aviation repair plants, the Gorkiy Obkom and many others.

Using examples of the work of groups of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee Conduct of the Lottery Directorate, the Rostov Obkom and the DOSAAF Central Committee of Kirghizia, the authors show that publicity of results of inspections is not an end in itself... This is a moral category which, in the overall system of communist indoctrination, is given a mobilizing role in human development.

I would like to refer to the following fact in this regard. At one time, following an inspection conducted by a people's control group, quality improved and production increased on sports vessels and sports weapons at the Leningrad Patriot Production Association. Based on results of the All-Union Socialist Competition the association was awarded first place in August of this year with the presentation of a Challenge Red Banner of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee and the Central Committee of the Cultural Workers Union, as well as first prize. As can be seen, much credit also goes to the people's control group for Patriot's successes.

The concluding chapter entitled "Organizational Work" presents in detail the principles of organizing people's control under conditions of the Defense Society. Here the reader will find answers to specific questions on the formation of groups and posts and about forms and methods of work, planning, accounting and reporting.

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- END -