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OUTSTANDING AIRBORNE ARTILLERY REGIMENT ADOPTS 1977 SOCIALIST OBLIGATIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Nov 76 p 1

[Article by Col B. Kunenkov: "Goals of the Airborne Troops"]

[Text] The artillery regiment commanded by Lt Col G. Mashchenkov, which has won two orders, enjoys a well-deserved reputation among airborne troops.

This unit has glorious traditions. The first pages of its combat story were written during the Civil War. The officers and men of the regiment withstood a 72-day siege by the White Cossacks in Ural'sk and fought side by side with the legendary Chapayev division against the enemies of the young Republic of Soviets.

During the Great Patriotic War the regiment devastated Nazi troops at Odessa and Stalingrad, on the Dnepr, at Brest, and in Poland. Seven brave fighting men of the unit were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union and one of them, Pvt Leonid Protsenko, has been permanently entered on the regiment roll.

In the postwar years the airborne troops have distinguished themselves at many exercises. In the 1976 training year the regiment was the initiator of socialist competition in the airborne forces.

Personnel fulfilled the obligations they had assumed in the year of the 25th CPSU Congress with honor and the regiment was named outstanding.

This leading unit recently held a meeting of personnel at which goals for the new training year, the 60th anniversary year for our country, were laid out. Having weighed and discussed their capabilities, the airborne artillery troops adopted concrete obligations and called on all airborne personnel to begin a campaign for a further increase in combat readiness, improved airborne training, mastery of new equipment and weapons, good performance of missions in combat and political training, and exemplary military order.

In the year of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution the artillerymen obligated themselves to keep the title of outstanding

regiment, achieve a high level of teamwork among the subunits, and cut by 15-20 percent the time required to prepare the unit for a landing action and the time required to bring the unit into battle after landing.

Each of the fighting men who should have a rating will have one, and more than 70 percent of the specialists will receive first and second class ones. Most of the soldiers obligated themselves to master two or three related specializations. On this basis the squads, crews, and teams will achieve complete mutual replaceability.

The obligations directed considerable attention to tactical, fire, and technical training. Personnel will struggle to perform all field fire exercises with marks of outstanding and good and hit targets on the first round from all distances, day and night, with minimum expenditure of ammunition. The weapons and equipment of the regiment will be kept in model condition.

By the end of the year each fighting man in the regiment will be a rated sportsman and holder of the VSK [Military Sports Complex] badge; at least 80 percent of them will earn first or second class ratings and the first or second degree of the VSK badge. This will continue the rich military sports traditions of the unit.

The obligations of personnel are permeated with a fervent desire to continue careful study of Lenin's theoretical heritage and the materials of the 25th CPSU Congress and the October 1976 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The campaign for a high level of combat skill is viewed in its organic unity with establishing communist morality and ethics in the collective and further strengthening discipline, organization, and regulation order.

Speaking at the meeting, communists and Komsomol members of the regiment expressed their firm confidence that the fighting men of the unit, like all airborne troops, will devote all their effort, knowledge, and energy to improving combat and political training and will greet the 60th anniversary of Great October in a worthy manner.

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KOMSOMOL SECRETARY LAMENTS BAD ATTITUDES OF SOME MEMBERS, EXHORTS TO WORK

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Nov 76 p 2

[Article by Lt V. Rod'kin, secretary, Komsomol committee: "Not for the Sake of Privileges or Praise"]

[Text] Happening to meet Ensign A. Khilov at the aircraft park I reminded him that he still had not performed his Komsomol assignment, to make up a display about the know-how of the best aviation specialists. I reproached him, a member of the Komsomol bureau, for the kind of example he was setting for others.

"I can't do everything at once, can I? I don't have any time for Komsomol assignments, there's too much work with my subordinates," Khilov fumed.

But then he changed his tone and added:

"You're closer to the leadership, comrade lieutenant. Suggest to them that my specialization rating should be raised. Then I'll move mountains in the Komsomol"

I was stunned. "Maybe he is joking," I thought. No, I could see that he was perfectly serious, looking at me and waiting for an answer.

But I could not continue talking to Khilov, so I turned and walked off. As I walked I wondered: where had such an attitude come from? Who says you should expect some advantage from participation in Komsomol work? Who says it is "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"? It was then that I recalled a line of reasoning sometimes heard among young officers.

"I pay my dues and go to meetings. But as for more than that, excuse me please, I don't have time. Work to do."

Sometimes they also add: "Anyway, what does the Komsomol offer me?"

But that is not at all how the matter should be stated. The Komsomol does not give to you, you give to it. What have you personally done to make people say the name "Komsomol" with pride and respect?

For my part, I cannot imagine being without the Komsomol, without working actively in one of its organizations. I joined the Komsomol while still in secondary school in a little Siberian community. Many years have passed since then, but I still remember our talk with the class leader Tat'yana Ivanovna Mekhal'chenko. She said:

"Remember, Volodya, the Komsomol gives no privileges. On the contrary, more will be expected of you than of others..."

I memorized her words and since that time have tried to do everything I could to justify the trust of my comrades in the Komsomol organization.

And how much the Komsomol expects of each of us, young officers and ensigns! I remember how I and many other Komsomol activists were so glad when Lt M. Ivanov, a Komsomol member, came to our unit. Just short of being a master of sports in two kinds of sport, he agreed to help us straighten out sports work in the unit. The members elected him to the Komsomol committee and expected sports life in the unit to really start moving. Unfortunately, our hopes were in vain. Nothing happened at all. I asked Ivanov why and he answered, "No time..." In my opinion, however, that is not the reason, it is simply an excuse. The reason is that he has no desire to work, no feeling of responsibility to the Komsomol organization for the assigned job.

You can always find time if you have the desire. Many examples show this. Take Ensign A. Sanin. He is the same age as Ivanov. Sanin is secretary of the Komsomol bureau in the best subunit. He has a family: a wife who works and goes to school, and a baby. And Sanin is outstanding at work, an excellent activist, and manages his jobs at home too.

And how can I help but mention Ensign N. Platonov, a veteran of our unit. He was once the secretary of the Komsomol committee. Nikolay Alekseyevich is soon to be discharged into the reserve. Although he is an older man, he still retains a kind of Komsomol character. He is still full of energy, as he was when he was younger, and that is probably why young people are attracted to him. The subunit in which he serves is the best in the unit and has a strong Komsomol organization. It was not accidental that this collective conceived and initiated a patriotic movement of young people to greet the 60th anniversary of Great October in a worthy manner. And the first one the activists went to for advice was the secretary of the party organization, Nikolay Alekseyevich Platonov.

I asked him once: "Nikolay Alekseyevich, aren't you tired of all this? You're not Komsomol age any more."

He smiled in response and said: "You always feel younger when you're with the Komsomol. Haven't you noticed this -- when someone across from you yawns you yourself get sleepy. But with young people you never get bored."

Then I remembered Lieutenant Ivanov's words, from one our talks: "I'm too old for the Komsomol and its work. Look for younger activists..."

"Too old..." "No time..." "What does the Komsomol offer me?"

It is shameful and painful to listen to such words. Look around, comrades! See the times in which we live. We have much work to do, you and I; many very interesting jobs lie before us. So go to the men, to your comrades and peers, and ask them: "What can I do for everyone, for the Komsomol?"

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PARTY INFLUENCE SHOULD SUPPORT INNOVATIONS IN TRAINING, OTHER METHODS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Nov 76 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Devin, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "A Feeling for What Is New -- Reports and Elections in Party Organizations"]

[Text] The artillery regiment which will be our subject fulfilled its socialist obligations and received a "good" evaluation in the summary inspection. It had the same result last year, so at first glance it may seem that the artillerymen have remained where they were, have not progressed in combat mastery. Before the start of the report-election party meeting, however, the regimental commander remarked in conversation:

"Evaluations mean different things. This year's 'four' ['good' evaluation] represents better training for all categories of specialists, and combat readiness is higher too."

I understood this comment better after getting to know the men and work of one of the regiment's best batteries. Sr Lt A. Shenyak commanded it until very recently. Lt V. Verkhovod now performs the duties of battery commander. The subunit had had a good record before, but last training year they worked particularly well. The battery earned the title of outstanding in socialist competition. All its team leaders learned to make gun corrections individually. The subunit achieved precise interaction among gunners, gun commanders, and the senior officer during firing. As a result they were able to cut the standard time required to prepare for opening fire. The high level of training of the subunit's men was demonstrated very clearly at battery exercises with field fire: they hit all targets with a high degree of fire precision.

How did they achieve such a clear improvement in quality indices? It was owing primarily to the fire skill of the battery's officers and ensigns, their high demands of themselves and their subordinates, and well-organized socialist competition in the team. But the main "secret" is, perhaps, the fact that the commanders of this outstanding subunit take a creative approach to the work and are constantly searching for new training methods which meet the demands of the day. This is what helped raise the quality and effectiveness of the artillerymen's labor.

At the initiative of the party organization of the battery, the artillerymen adopted a new approach to practicing interaction among specialists at the fire position. They now speak confidently of a new method of training gun commanders and gunners in the regiment. It was first used in practice by communists Senior Lieutenant Shenyak, Lieutenant Verkhovod, and other officers and ensigns of the subunit. In the batteries commanded by senior lieutenants Ye. Nechipurenko and P. Kutsyy there is also a creative attitude toward specialist training.

The search for ways to improve the quality of combat training for the artillerymen is also reflected in more effective use of physical facilities for training in the regiment. For example, a range for direct laying fire at short range was rigged up at the rifle area at the start of the year. It was very helpful in raising the level of artillery-rifle training for sergeants. Field fire by direct laying has been done twice. All the sergeants in the regiment received outstanding and good marks. Most of the firers hit the target on the first or second shell. In short, the experience of the regiment during the last training year showed what an enormous role the desire and ability to solve complex troop training problems play today. There was naturally an interested, but also demanding, talk on this subject at the report-election meeting of the unit party organization.

Evaluating results according to principle, critically, the speaker and other communists analyzed the work of the party committee and the party organization during the report period. There is no question that the party committee did a great deal to maintain an atmosphere of high party demands, personal responsibility of communists for assigned work sectors, and a creative attitude toward the organization of competition and the training process in all subunits. These matters came up for discussion by the party collective several times. The party committee responds sensitively to everything new and progressive that emerges in the life and training of the unit.

But it was pointed out that the party committee is not always consistent in all things. Capt V. Belyayev, for example, correctly noted that the know-how of leading officers was propagandized, but the party did not show sufficient persistence in this work.

I remembered the unit commander's telling me about the proponents and opponents of the new methods of training artillerymen. Of course, no one in the regiment openly opposes useful innovations. Everybody says they are for them. But in practice certain communists hold stubbornly to the old, customary ways because things are smoother and less troublesome that way.

The regiment has one battery which did not raise itself above satisfactory marks all year long. One of the reasons it is marking time is that some of its officers have no desire to improve their personal professional and methodological training. The senior officer of the battery, communist V. Lobach,has been accused of this, and with reason. In view of

his service position he has a definite part in organizing the training process. But Lobach conducts training periods in the old way and his methods do not insure the quality of specialist training needed today.

The party organization does not ignore such things. Communist Lobach reported at the party meeting. But even afterward, as time has shown, the officer was in no hurry to take up the new, proven in practice, methods. Therefore, the party's influence here was ineffective.

The regiment has many inquisitive, searching minds. One of them is Ensign A. Podshivalov, commander of a fire platoon and a Komsomol member. Lieutenant Verkhovod related many interesting stories to me about how Podshivalov became excited with the idea of cutting the time required for topographical alignment of the battery's battle formation. Three months ago the ensign made his own original instrument which cuts the time required for alignment 75 percent and improves fire precision. At present the instrument is used only in the battery commanded by Lieutenant Verkhovod. Perhaps, I wondered, it is too intricate in design or too hard to build?

"No, any battery could make one," Sr Lt V. Pakhnenko, secretary of the batallion party organization, answered.

"What is stopping them?"

"Not every battery has someone like Podshivalov."

That is not a convincing reason, to say the least. Certainly the efficiency innovations of Ensign Podshivalov can be used in the interests of the whole batallion? The party organization should have been heard from long ago on this matter; it should have supported this useful innovation and given it broad distribution. Unfortunately, it still has not been heard from. Therefore, one cannot help agreeing with communist Lt Col V. Spetinis, who said the following in his talk at the report-election meeting:

"Having communists report to the meeting is a good thing. But this and other forms of party work must be improved constantly so that the party plays a more active part in encouraging communist leaders to quickly learn and master new methods of troop training."

Lieutenant Verkhovod, a party member, elaborated on this same thought in his comments at the meeting. I listened to the comrades and here is what it brought to mind. The words of Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, spoken at the October 1976 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee are fully applicable to us, military communists: each communist and each party organization must do everything possible to encourage and spread truly practical and useful initiatives and determinedly eliminate everything that hinders creative thought and innovation, everything that stands in the way of our progress. This is something for the party organization of the artillery regiment to think about.

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GOOD PLANNING PROCEDURES PRODUCE EFFECTIVE TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Nov 76 p 1

[Article by Maj V. Bitsutin, chief of staff, motorized rifle regiment: "The Chief Guidelines"]

[Text] The personnel of our regiment responded enthusiastically to the appeal of the Carpathian motorized riflemen to all fighting men of the Ground Forces to join competition to greet the 60th anniversary of Great October in a worthy manner, raise combat readiness and field training to a new level, and achieve mastery of the equipment and weapons.

For us the period of preparation for the new training year was a time of searching for unused reserves. All the men were involved in this, but most of all the communists. The materials of the October 1976 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, which reveal once more the great importance of efficiency and quality in work, have become their guide to action, and these are our chief guidelines: efficiency (effectiveness) and quality.

I would mention precise planning of the training process as one of the essential conditions for raising effectiveness. The work cannot succeed without planning. I recall my first actions after graduating from military academy and becoming regimental chief of staff. Shutting ourselves up in an office with the controlling documents, my deputy and I planned what seemed like everything down to the smallest details. In the very first training periods, however, a whole series of problems came up. The specialists were unprepared for the intensive drills called for in our schedule. The equipment at the training fields was inappropriate for performance of the particular mission, and so on. In short, the mistakes in our plan had an immediate effect on the quality and effectiveness of training periods. We had to make the corresponding corrections.

Now we have taken last year's mistakes into account and the planning for the winter period is not being done by just me and my deputy; we are working together with the chiefs of the services. It seems to me this is simply essential. After all, we have specialists of the most diverse categories in the regiment. The service chiefs are likely to know the specifics of their training better than anyone else. Moreover, the service chiefs are

responsible for organizing training in the subunits under them. So it is very useful to listen to their advice.

Special attention in planning was given to the problem of rational use of training sites. The times and subjects of training periods at the fire training area, firing range, and tank grounds were planned so that the subunits would use the training facilities evenly and work primarily on those questions essential for maintaining their combat readiness at the necessary level.

Analysis of the year's results enabled us to conclude that certain subunits had lagged behind in the basic training subjects primarily because of the poor professional training and methodological skills of certain officers, especially new officers. Although almost all of our company and platoon commanders have higher education there are still gaps in their education. Some graduates of military schools have solid theoretical knowledge but do not always know how to use it effectively in the technical and moral training of personnel. They are particularly unsure of themselves when it comes to operating the combat equipment. There were some cases where commanders got very poor marks for performance of exercises in driving and fire training.

We paid special attention to the command and methodological training of company-level officers. A check showed that not all of them are able to conduct training periods and drills in methodologically correct ways or demonstrate particular procedures. This was the case with Sr Lt S. Gal'perin, for example. We decided to work with the officer individually. The job was assigned to a batallion commander. In this way we keep to the principle of superiors teaching subordinates.

The staff officers also worked productively in the subunits. They helped draw up company schedules and summarize and disseminate progressive know-how among the troops. Capt V. Ivanov, for example, studied the working experience of the officers in a certain batallion which had won the title of outstanding. Their experience was discussed with all officers and ensigns of the regiment. Steps were worked out collectively to improve the quality and effectiveness of training periods in the command training system. Progressive know-how was used in conducting a demonstration training period for fire training in the motorized rifle company commanded by Sr Lt V. Meshkov. An exchange of opinions was held afterward.

I think an important factor in mastering the equipment and weapons is the fact that during preparations for the new training year fire and technical study circles continued operating in the subunits, a technical conference was held, and the best specialists exchanged know-how.

So we look to the future with optimism. Last year the regiment reached the outstanding mark in several training subjects, in particular fire training. We consider this only a milepost on the path to new achievements. Personnel are determined to earn outstanding marks in other disciplines as well and great the 60th anniversary of Great October with the leaders in competition.

OUTSTANDING HELICOPTER REGIMENT CONTINUES IMPROVEMENTS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Nov 76 p 2

[Article by Col Yu. Savosin, commander of the Red Banner Helicopter Regiment imeni V. I. Lenin: "Helicopters Over the Field of Battle"]

[Text] The aviators of our unit responded enthusiastically to the call by the guardsmen of the quadruple-order aviation regiment commanded by Guards Lt Col G. Shchitov to compete actively for high combat readiness, a further improvement in air training, mastery of new kinds of aviation equipment and weapons, maintenance of them, high-quality fulfillment of combat and political training missions, exemplary military order, and a worthy greeting for the 60th anniversary of Great October. The chief point of the obligations we adopted was to win the title of outstanding regiment again, for the eighth time.

To reach this goal demands great personal responsibility from each airman. We worked that way all of the past training year, including the check inspection where our airmen had to perform aerial missions in conditions maximally approximating those of real battle. The crews demonstrated their great tactical and professional skill. Overcoming the enemy air defense, our helicopters stopped the advance of reserves by a sudden strike from ambush. The effectiveness of the support given to ground forces by the helicopters can be judged by the work results of Maj V. Fankin and Capt A. Vinokurov: every missile they fired was a hit. District commander of aviation Lt Gen Avn V. Pan'kin, who observed the battle, had high praise for the helicopter crews and awarded them honorary watches.

All the best aviators in our unit have a feeling of personal responsibility for fulfillment of the plan and obligations in competition. All the pilots of the regiment raised their qualifications and became highly rated specialists during the year. The collective has established a firm tradition of backing up its words with deeds. What this means in practice is hard, purposeful work and constant searching for reserves to raise combat readiness.

For example, here is how we worked on one of the most difficult problems, raising ratings. At the recommendation of the methods council flight

personnel were broken into two groups, one of pilots preparing for first class and the other for pilots working toward second class. The advantages of differentiation were seen immediately: during the flight shift none of the pilots were left without flights, the aviation equipment was used more efficiently, and the rate of advance through the program picked up. Formerly new pilots had to content themselves with trainers during night flights in bad weather. Valuable time was lost and the helicopters stood idle. Now when difficult meteorological conditions are anticipated flights are planned for experienced aviators only. This enables them to work at full speed, then when conditions are better, in clear weather, the second group flies.

Atmospheric processes take place regardless of our plans, of course. Low clouds can hang over the airfield for a long time. This happened and threatened to disrupt the working rhythm of one of the groups. We met this situation at the very start of the last training year. How could rhythm be insured? We decided not to wait for good weather, but rather to go looking for it at other airfields. With help from the meteorologists we chose a landing zone and the second group landed there. The location of the groups changed. A great deal of work was required of the staff, technicians and mechanics, and the troops of the rear and supporting subunits. Pilot-instructors and officers V. Archegov, N. Bogatkin, V. Fankin, and N. Strel'tsov, after mastering helicopter flight at night in difficult weather conditions in minimum training time, immediately began training the subordinates. They were up in the air almost daily. They never tired of searching for more effective methods. And the painstaking work of the collective paid off handsomely: all the subunits fulfilled the combat training plans. The regiment was named outstanding for the seventh time.

The search for effective methods of training helicopter pilots is also stimulated by the growing complexity of tactical missions. We have been able to find numerous ways to make the tactical situation in drill flights approximate that of combat. We took advantage of possibilities related to interaction with ground forces. At flight tactical exercises, for example, we rejected an invisible "enemy," perferring to deal with real opposing forces, whose part was played by ground subunits, at our request. Antiaircraft troops set up anti-helicopter means along the route and received good training in aiming at helicopters.

I recall the first sortie. Some of the crews underestimated the enemy's abilities, maneuvered lazily, and did not take advantage of camouflaging features of the relief. At the flight review the anitaircraft representative listed them as hypothetically shot down and gave the objective monitoring data to support his statement. His report made a great impression on the helicopter pilots. On the next sortie they operated as if it were actual combat. Their effectiveness in overcoming air defense increased sharply.

We can expect to receive new, effective procedures for our tactical arsenal. The crews will have to drill hard to completely master them.

The helicopter troops will also have to learn to take account of changes in the tactical situation and modify their battle formation and plan of action quickly and at the right time. The subjects of lectures, short tactical exercises, and other training periods have been laid out with this in mind; they will help raise the tactical skill level of our troops.

The unit methods council will certainly have an important part in this matter too. It gives the airmen a great deal of help in improving the effectiveness of helicopters in battle, improving methods of operating and servicing the aviation equipment, and insuring flight safety. Changes in its working style have already been made that will make it possible to elevate the role of the council as a generator of new, progressive ideas in the methodology of airman training and organizing socialist competition. The level of scientific substantiation of recommendations has risen noticeably in the last year. The council coordinates its work more closely with practical missions. Thus, its plans were used to work out a methodology for conducting pilot drills in preparing weapons on the combat course and bringing crews in for landings with malfunctioning flight instruments, to develop methods of checking pilot readiness for flights, and to work out comprehensive drills for the flight control group in assisting crews in emergencies.

The methods council works out recommendations on all key problems of combat training for the airmen. But practice showed that these recommendations were not always effective. Some recommendations were being implemented slowly. The situation changed after we began to test the recommendations during command flights. The great experience of the flight and squadron commanders permits them to evaluate the merits and shortcomings of particular procedures in operating and preparing the equipment and in training airmen immediately. And the remarks of instructors are often helpful in working out the optimal plans.

All this was reflected in our new plans and in the continued search for concealed reserves for raising combat readiness. The communists of the regiment discussed this at a recent party meeting. They particularly stressed the influence of socialist competition on the combat training process. Indeed, we have learned a great deal through practical implementation of the principles of publicity and comparability of results and seeing that progressive know-how can be replicated. With help from the political branch the commanders were able to organize competition by missions and standards for flights. Yet we still do not organize competition professionally, on a scientific basis. And life bears convincing witness that there is a direct relationship between competitive enthusiasm and creative activity in fighting men. The broader the scope of competition, the greater the personal contribution of each helicopter soldier will be in raising the combat readiness of the subunit.

The regiment faces new, even tougher missions in the new training year. In preparation, every airman is analyzing the results of last year over

and over. Basing themselves on the demands of the 25th party congress and the October 1976 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, commanders, political workers, staff officers, and the party and Komsomol organizations of the regiment are searching hard for ways to continue raising combat readiness, the quality of air training, and the effectiveness of socialist competition. Progressive know-how, which synthesizes the capabilities of our combat equipment and the great abilities of our airmen, is a reliable support, a good basis, for achieving success.

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TRAINING OBJECTIVES IN NEW TRAINING YEAR OUTLINED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Dec 76 p 1

[Editorial: "Toward New Heights of Military Skills"]

[Text] A new training year is commencing in the Soviet Armed Forces. The personnel of the Army and Navy are commencing it full of determination to struggle actively to carry out the decisions of the 25th party congress and the October (1976) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, and to worthily carry out their responsible mission of guarding the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and being the bulwark of universal peace.

The year 1977 holds a special place in the life of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces as the year of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The preparations for the glorious jubilee adds inspiration to military service, it causes in the servicemen a feeling of pride for the glorious victories won by the people following the path of Great October under the leadership of the Communist Party, and gives rise to a desire to fete the motherland with new achievements in training and service.

A vivid expression of the noble patriotic aspiration of the Soviet servicemen is the socialist competition commenced upon the appeal of the leading units of the branches of the Armed Forces. The appeals of the competition initiators, in being approved by the USSR Ministry of Defense and the chief political directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, have encountered wide support in the military districts, troop groups and fleets. The personnel of the Army and Navy have promised to constantly improve military and political training, to master the modern weapons and new equipment, and to raise vigilance and combat readiness.

The new training year is an important stage in the development of our Armed Forces. In the course of combat training on the ranges and tank training areas, the launching pads and airfields, during flights and sea voyages, complex combat training missions must be carried out. They demand from the personnel profound knowledge and firm skills, and a great strain on the morale and physical forces. Here the chief efforts of the commanders and the staffs should be focused on achieving high effectiveness in the training and indoctrination process, and raising the quality indicators of military and political training.

A most important training principle has been and remains the principle of teaching the troops what is needed in warfare. This means that in the new training year, primary significance will be given to raising the level of the field, air and sea skills of the soldiers, aviation and naval forces. The personnel should be trained in fighting against a strong, technically advanced enemy, and in the ability to fight under a situation as close as possible to the conditions of modern warfare. This presupposes a further improvement in the tactical, technical and firing training training of the servicemen, and better command of the subunits, units and ships. The commanders must be instructed in the practical skills of precisely giving orders to subordinates, the organizing of coordination with other troops, and the skilled maneuvering of forces and means as well as firing in the course of combat. Instances must not be tolerated when some officers, as happened at times during the previous training year, in the course of the exercises showed slowness, they acted routinely, and did not utilize the increased capabilities of the weapons and equipment. The commanders and staffs must secure from their subordinates bold and decisive actions in the most complex situation, during the day and at night, under any conditions of the weather, terrain and seas, they must use the new equipment efficiently, and teach the personnel to hit the target dependably from the first launch, shot, and at maximum range.

The ever increasing complexity of the tasks of combat training requires a further intensification of the training process, a precise organization of troop service, and firm order according to the regulations. The commanders, the political bodies and the staffs must from the very first day give a combat rhythm to the training, achieve strict fulfillment of the training plans and programs and the exercise schedules, achieve a 100-percent involvement of the personnel in training, and show concern for the proper level of educational skills in the exercise leaders. In each collective it is important to create a situation of intolerance for instances of the irrational wasting of training time, as well as instances of oversimplification and weaknesses.

From the very first days of the training year, the socialist competition should become an inseparable part of the training process. The pledges published in the press by the initiators of the competition in the types of Armed Forces are a sort of guide for all the units and ships. At the same time, the pledges of each troop collective should conform fully to the specifics of its training and service, they should provide broad scope for competitiveness in the course of the exercises and training and in the struggle for the outstanding fulfillment of the standards and combat training missions, they should indoctrinate the personnel in a spirit of the principles of our morality, and help to strengthen military discipline.

A high level of organization and discipline is the most important condition for achieving new successes in training and service. The commanders and the staffs must more actively introduce the requirements of the new general service regulations into military life. There must be a further unifying of the military collectives and a strengthening of relationships of friendship and comradeship and the finest traditions of the Army and Navy in them, and to indoctrinate in each serviceman a high responsibility for carrying out military

duty. It must constantly be remembered that the maintaining of firm military discipline is an area of activity which requires not a campaign or one-shot measures, but rather carefully thought out and systematically carried out work on a broad front and with all categories of servicemen.

Life teaches that the more difficult the missions to be carried out are, the higher the level of ideological, political and organizational work in the troops should be. In the training year which has started, the commanders, political bodies and party organizations must direct this work primarily at raising the level of combat readiness of the troops, improving the quality of field training, they must study and safeguard the weapons and military equipment and successfully carry out the training programs and plans as well as the pledges in the socialist competition. Work with those who have been entrusted with the training and indoctrination of subordinates should be at the center of attention. The commanders and political workers must be taught to have a creative approach to organizing the training and indoctrination process, they must more boldly use the recommendations of pedagogics and psychology, and be objective in assessing the achieved results.

The Communist Party, as was pointed out at the October (1976) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee is doing everything necessary so that the Soviet military personnel possess the most modern weapons. In studying these weapons thoroughly and in mastering the procedures of their effective use in combat, the Soviet servicemen are further raising the might of our Armed Forces. The commenced training year will become still another step ahead on the path of military expertise for the men of the Army and Navy.

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IMPROPER USE OF TRAINING TIME CRITICIZED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Engr-Capt 2d Rank A. Kontiyevskiy, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Not the End of the Story"]

[Text] In his letter to the editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Capt A. Smirnov stated that in their subunit it had become a rule to send the personnel to work at civilian enterprises on training days. When I arrived on the spot, certain officers and warrant officers [praporshchik] mentioned in the letter were no longer there and had been transferred to a new place of service. But in a check the facts were fully substantiated. But in the collective under discussion, changes for the better have occurred. Was there really anything to write about? However, a more thorough analysis of the situation indicated that this was not all to this story.

...In unit X they decided to provide centralized training for the just drafted soldiers in the job of an electrician. For this, a training group was established for a certain time in the subunit where officer D. Kul'chiyev was the deputy commander. Practice showed the advantages of such a form for training the young specialists. As a rule, they rapidly took their place in service, and operated the equipment skillfully and intelligently. The last group was an exception. And here is why.

At present it is impossible to ascertain on precisely what day the group of soldiers was sent during training time to a nearby winery. But soon the rumor of the "generosity" of the leadership of the subunit which unfailingly assigned personnel for work on the outside became known throughout the district. And the subunit began to receive telephone calls and visits from the representatives of the winery, consumer goods factories and other organizations. The subunit commander, officer A. Shcherbitskiy, at that time was absent on official business. And the requesters began to turn to officer A. Skomarovskiy, and even more often to officer D. Kul'chiyev. He assumed the role of one of the organizers of trips by the servicemen for "seasonal" work. Kul'chiyev appointed the persons in charge of the group and instructed them. In the morning, immediately after relief, a group of 10-12 persons headed by a warrant officer left for the winery or another enterprise instead of going to exercises. And they returned to the barracks in the evening.

Once a group headed by WO I. Shkurko returned from the winery obviously feeling no pain. It would seem that now they would put an end to the "seasonal" work in the subunit. But a different decision was taken, that is, to send the best most disciplined personnel as the heads of the group. The warrant officers V. Stolyarchuk, V. Bogomazov, A. Bogush and others, upon their own admission, went to enterprises on days of combat training from 6 to 10 times each. Naturally, they were absent from the tasks of training and indoctrinating their subordinates.

The time passed and the knowledge of the soldiers grew slowly. Sr Lt Yu. Gorbatyuk who was in charge of the training of the young specialists reluctantly entered in the logs marks showing the presence at exercises of those who during the training hours were pushing around bales and boxes a good distance away from the classrooms and labs. And the same marks also appeared regularly opposite the names of the warrant officers. Gorbatyuk endeavored in some way to eliminate the gaps in the knowledge of the future electricians, and conducted additional exercises with them. The situation was regularly reported up the chain of command, and help from senior comrades was hoped for. But finally he did not wait for it. Finding out about the arrival of the next "contractor," Gorbatyuk went to the command post and asked officer Shcherbitskiy who had returned to the subunit just how long such disorder would last. And officer Kul'chiyev was present at this time.

After this the intensity of the trips to the enterprises declined somewhat. However, it was impossible to make up the lost in the training of the future electricians. And proof of this was their grades in the final examination. The average number of points in the specialty for the soldiers of the last group was the lowest in all the years. Not one of the young specialists could meet the ranking of "excellent." One out of every two had a satisfactory grade. And Pvts K. Allaberdiyev and Ya. Muntyan received unsatisfactory grades.

The special training of other personnel in the subunit also suffered because of the outside work. For example, WO V. Stolyarchuk went as the group leader, and his subordinate Pvt G. Koladze essentially was not studying. And what was the result? Koladze has a poor knowledge of his specialty.

WO A. Bogush could not rise above third class because of frequent trips to enterprises. When he asked about his special training, he heard the same answer: "Today you are in charge of a group, Comrade Bogush. And do you really mean to put your personal interests higher than the interests of the collective?"

Once in the subunit the following instance occurred. The radio chief WO V. Bogomazov was assigned in charge of a trip when he was carrying out repairs on the equipment. And then, without him, the equipment failed at a crucial moment. All that had happened was a fuse was blown, however Bogomazov's subordinates who did not have sufficient experience in repairs were at a loss as to what they should do. Officer Kul'chiyev placed the warrant officer under arrest for three days when he returned from the trip.

"But I went at your orders, without having completed the preventive repairs," explained Bogomazov.

Kul'chiyev had to immediately lift the penalty imposed by him.

All of this, naturally, caused harm to the indoctrination of the personnel. One cannot help but mention also the following side of the question. Often the subunit received large bottles of wine from the winery. This was admitted by those who delivered it and by those who unloaded the bottles or merely witnessed the unloading. Officer Kul'chiyev also admitted this. In truth, the persons I spoke with differed in their views on one thing. They gave different addresses where the wine was later sent....

Now officer L. Podol'tsev is in command of the subunit. As was already pointed out above, the situation here has taken a noticeable turn for the better, and many shortcomings have been eliminated. One of the officers responded thusly about the changes: "We are approaching service like a holiday. We are confident that in the new training year we will achieve not bad results." But still, looking the truth in the eye, it must be admitted that the burden of previous errors is felt once in a while. For example, for the young commander it was a discovery that Pvt S. Dvoretskiy had recently been involved in outside work instead of training. And in the log there were notations that he had been present at each exercise and training. The company master sergeant, WO A. Remizov, explained this by the fact that certain scarce building materials were very needed for repairing service facilities. The logic, need it be said, is very bizarre.

I had a chance to talk with officer Kul'chiyev. It was a difficult conversation. Facts are a stubborn thing. The officer who has served many years in the army understands this. However, he did not answer the question of why he was unable to say a final "no" when before his very eyes and with his involvement the requirements of the regulations and orders were being violated and obvious harm was being caused to the military training of the men. He saw his fault primarily in the fact that he had insulted the author of the letter to the editors before leaving the subunit. Certainly if Capt Smirnov had not sent off the complaint, everything would have gone smoothly.

The superior staff and the political department virtually did not respond at all to what had happened. This story merits a fundamental evaluation. This is why the chapter must not yet be closed.

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USE OF SOCIALIST COMPETITION IN DUTY TOURS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Maj Gen I. Stopnikov: "On Combat Duty"]

[Text] The officers of the unit political department were checking the organizations of the competition during combat duty in the subunit commanded by Maj Yu. Tereshchenko. It was noted that in the preparatory period here they made a careful study of the appropriate orders and instructions, and there was strict testing of each specialist's knowledge of his functional duties. Nor did they forget the socialist pledges for the period of standing combat duty. They were clearly written out and hung up in a prominent place.

However, the first good impression soon began to change. Few of the men recalled the assumed pledges. Nor in the work of the crews could you feel a flicker of competitiveness and mutual aid. The experienced specialists did not know what concerned and disconcerted the young men and what they should achieve at present. The minutes of quiet between training sessions, when the officers, warrant officers [praporshchiks] and sergeants, the party and Komsomol activists had, as they say, "hot" facts and observations at their fingertips, when at the very moment they could analyze the results, delve into the reasons for the falling behind of individual specialists and commend the outstanding men--all of this precious time in essence was wasted.

The officers of the political department on the spot provided help to Maj Yu. Tereshchenko in eliminating the shortcomings and in organizing the competition among all categories of personnel and particularly the leading specialists.

Unfortunately, instances when the work of organizing the competition in combat duty is virtually completed during the preparatory period are not isolated ones. Why does this happen? We feel, primarily because certain commanders and political workers forget the most important demand of today, that is, the competition should be an inseparable component part of the entire training and indoctrination process. Such leaders often complain that combat duty is always oversaturated with all sorts of unforeseen eventualities. But isn't it easier to "connect" everything planned with the flow of these eventualities which take up so much time?

In actuality, it is not so easy to do all of this. Initiative and a creative approach are needed, as well as the ability to employ forms and methods of work proceeding from the actually developing conditions. It must always be remembered that a period of combat duty is a time of the greatest attentiveness and mobilizing of each specialist in the post assigned to him, when the political, morale and fighting qualities of the men and their psychological conditioning are sharply tested.

In combat duty, the personnel, as nowhere else, are united by the unity of the goal and responsibility, they work shoulder to shoulder and in full view of one another. Here the best conditions are created for competitiveness, a helping hand, and active work to fulfill and overfulfill the standards. And all of this is for the sake of having the teamwork and skills of the crews reach perfection, and their readiness rise to a level when it is turned into the ability to immediately engage in combat and defeat any enemy.

Here, per se, lies the particular features and purpose of the competition in combat duty. And its success to a good degree depends upon how thought out and concrete are the socialist pledges. It happens that they are of a too general and declarative character, and, naturally, their fulfillment is difficult to control. In a number of instances, the pledges simply duplicate the functional duties of the specialists. This is incorrect. Certainly the pledges should urge the personnel forward, and aim them at the struggle to surpass the standards, provide aid to fellow servicemen, and so forth.

In front of me are the socialist pledges of officer A. Drozdov for one of the duty tours. These include: to achieve an excellent evaluation, to provide help to the new man in the team Sgt A. Kravchenko in studying the tactics of air attack weapons, and so forth.

These are the pledges of a command post officer going on a tour of duty. But what are they like, in this instance, for example, for a pilot? Again, let us turn to an example. The military sniper pilot, Guards Maj V. Ushinin, during one of the duty tours planned: to reduce the time of personal combat readiness and actions involving a test target by 10 percent; to know the performance data of the air attack weapons excellently; to strictly follow the safety measures; to provide help to Lt A. Smirnov in studying the combat capabilities of his airplane....

The fulfillment of such socialist pledges is always easy to monitor. And the very process of their realization assumes a vital, competitive character.

The competition in combat duty helps to develop and unite the collective. But this, certainly, is only possibilities which must be ably used. The experienced commanders and political workers solved this problem successfully.

Let us look at the example of the subunit commander, officer A. Petrov. He personally carries out the immediate preparations of the crews for going on a tour of duty. Along with the political worker and the party and Komsomol activists, he sees to it that the missilemen leave for the firing position

fully cognizant of the fact that in their hands is a weapon of collective use, and that the slightest mistake by any specialist can complicate the carrying out of the mission for the entire subunit. The personnel is explained the materials of the 25th CPSU Congress and the requirements of the Communist Party on the necessity of further raising vigilance and combat readiness of the Armed Forces. The following goal is achieved unswervingly: each missileman should be clearly aware and understand his mission, like the back of his hand, and know what he is to do and how he is to do it, and with whom he is competiting. Only after this are the socialist pledges set.

And what is their content? This depends upon the service experience of the missilemen, their specialty and class rating. Thus, the operator, Pfc Yu. Bataytis, in one of the duties assumed the following pledges: to strictly observe the requirements of all the documents, instructions and regulations related to the tour of duty, the safety rules; to exceed the work standards on the equipment by 10 percent; to participate in issuing combat leaflets; to share experience with the young soldier S. Romanenko, to help him on his first tour of duty, and so forth.

And thus the solemn ritual was carried out and the duty tour started. At the same time, the following stage of organizational work commenced. Even in the very first hours, the commander and the political worker and the party activists headed by the party organization secretary, officer V. Yaroshinskiy, kept a close eye out on the course of the competition. All of its characteristic aspects and each detail were recorded by the chiefs in a special log and put up on a handsome stand. In leafing through the log or in looking at the stand, you will see the entire picture of the intense life and service of the crews standing guard: one specialist made a mistake, another showed resourcefulness and daring, someone did not keep within the standards and someone had a record result. All of this is as plain as can be. And in all of this there is excitement and experiences, disappointments and joys. The missile troops are aware that at the end of the duty tour the conduct and actions of each man will be analyzed and evaluated, and the characteristics of his expertise, his political, morale and military qualities will be fully disclosed to the collective.

Individual work with the men is in the forefront. The commander, the deputy commander for political affairs carefully think through the assignment of the party and Komsomol activists. A communist is included in the shift. On the day before, the party organization secretary talks with him. It is a question of the personal example of the party man, and his ability to influence the fellow servicemen in word and deed. In the shift there is also a Komsomol group organizer, an agitator, and a combat leaflet editor.

Party political work is also organized consistently and purposefully in nighttime, when the fatigue of the personnel is felt more strongly. It is important that during these hours there be no decline in their work pace or combat verve. Information is periodically analyzed on the particular features of the air situation.

Of course, such categories as the mobilizing of morale, or combat mood cannot be measured or expressed in the language of figures. But this is not required. Because they have a property, to put it one way, of self expression. They are manifested in the accelerated growth of the mastery of the missile troops, in their maturing, and in the solidarity of the military collective. Suffice it to say that the subordinate officers of A. Petrov for several years running have held first place in the unit for all indicators of military and political training and in the socialist competition. In the crews they have achieved complete interchangeability, and among the missile troops there is not a single laggard in training. And the most important result is that during the current year there was not a single instance when a combat mission was not carried out by the subunit with a high grade.

The regular tour of duty is over. Now the results must be summed up, and the conclusions drawn. Officer Petrov does not have to dig in his memory or remember the course of past events, as all the data and information are at hand. The subunit commander organizes the giving of the results in such a manner that each man, without exception, is given a grade for his actions and knows precisely where he excelled and where a mistake was made. The floor is also given to the commanders of the crews and the Komsomol group organizers who, in using their own observations and conclusions and their entries in the log for keeping the current results of the competition, bring out all oversights and shortcomings, and disclose the advanced experience.

The results are summed up with the same detail and thoroughness for the duty tours during the month and period of instruction. The best are commended by the commander.

In response to the patriotic appeal of the men in the antiaircraft missile regiment, the socialist competition in the National Air Defense Troops has spread widely. And now the example of the best subunits and crews again and again convincingly shows that with correct organization, a competition in combat duty helps in carrying an entire complex of major and serious tasks in the area of providing the inviolability of the air frontiers of the motherland.

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LONG-RANGE CRUISES: KEY TRAINING, POLISHING GROUND

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Dec 76 p 1

[Lead editorial: "The School of Long-Range Cruises"]

[Text] The Soviet Navy, like all our Armed Forces, entered the new training year, the year of the 60th anniversary of Great October and further struggle to realize the designs of the 25th CPSU Congress, with great enthusiasm. Our sailors, like all Soviet fighting men, are working hard to accomplish the missions placed before them by the homeland and to achieve new successes in combat and political training, socialist competition, and mastering modern weapons and combat equipment.

The Navy today stands watch on distant sea frontiers, under the complex conditions of ocean cruises. Above all this illustrates its increased capacities, the high level of skill of the crews and, most of all, the skill of the ship commanders.

The percentage of new ship commanders with comparatively little experience behind them is greater than ever before among the officers who lead ship crews today. For them a long-range cruise is not just a difficult test but also a school of courage, vigilance, and skill which will be most helpful to the one who is thoroughly prepared to perform the missions of the cruise and has excellent moral-political and professional characteristics.

Almost the entire cruise of the patrol ship commanded by Capt-Lt V. Khronya took place in difficult weather. The ship ran into several storms while performing hard combat training missions. And each time the actions of the commander and the entire crew received a high mark. Yet this was the commander's first independent long-range cruise. Captain-Lieutenant Khronya justified the hopes placed in him because, relying on the party organization, the communists and Komsomol members, he was able to unite the crew around him and direct them to fulfilling the missions of the cruise. He organized socialist competition on the cruise correctly and set an example of model performance of duty for all the crew.

Long-range cruises provide a comprehensive test of a commander's military technical and tactical training, his ability to control the ship and crew

in different conditions and situations, to be an ideological leader to his subordinates, and to inspire them to accomplish the complex missions facing the ship. The cruise situation itself has a mobilizing effect on the ship commander and helps him acquire practical skill and improve his professional skills. But it would be a mistake to think that the sea itself will teach everything. Training on a cruise, in conditions that are most favorable for building up knowledge and skills, will be truly effective only when training is thoroughly prepared, carefully planned, organized with due regard for the requirements of modern warfare, and stripped of all simplification and indulgence.

The base training of the commander and the whole crew for the long-range cruise become very important here. During short trips to sea while still assigned to base the crew is able to practice many elements of the forthcoming cruise missions. The commander and his subordinates must be prepared for all possible unexpected complications of the situation, which is characteristic of long-range cruises. The crew must have a high level of repair training, solid skills in fighting for ship survival, and mutual replaceability of specialists. A system for organizing socialist competition by stages of the cruise and missions being performed must be thought out in advance. The sailor who is fully prepared for the most unexpected actions when he leaves his home base and goes to sea will not be caught off guard by the most difficult trials.

This was confirmed once again by the crew of the cruiser Dzerzhinskiy. While on a long-range cruise the ship had to carry out a mission that was unusual for it and most unexpected for the commander. But the Dzerzhinskiy crew emerged from this very difficult situation successfully. The commander showed resourcefulness, courage, and great determination. And that was natural. Like his subordinates, the commander was ready for such actions.

Unfortunately, some young commanders believe that at sea you can make up for everything that you did not do in base. This is a very wrong idea. The long-range cruise is no place to acquire primary knowledge and skills. They should be polished at sea. And the main thing on an ocean cruise is to give the seamen's knowledge and skills a vigorous, thorough test by means of the many situations which arise at sea, so that their knowledge and skills become mastery and are reflected in higher ship combat readiness.

Each long-range cruise is also a school of political maturity. The commander, political workers, and party organization, working from the concrete conditions and the military-political situation in the cruise region, must help the seamen understand the importance of their military labor and its role and place in the all-people's struggle for communism. When visiting foreign ports, Soviet seamen are expected to be worthy representatives of our country and propagandists for the Soviet way of life.

On a long-range cruise the commander has an opportunity to solidify the combat collective and bolster the authority of the officers in order to

raise ship combat readiness. The men show themselves, their individual features and character traits, more clearly and openly on a cruise. The complex situation and the trials of increased physical and psychological loads help seamen improve moral and fighting qualities faster. This makes active, purposeful party political work and socialist competition more important.

The experience of long-range cruises is truly valuable when it is actively disseminated and used widely by all commanders. One cannot say today that a commander and crew are adequately prepared for a cruise if the preparations failed to consider and use the experience and achievements of earlier commanders and crews, the leaders of the units and fleets.

Commanders, political agencies, staffs, and party organizations should play the leading role in generalizing and disseminating leading know-how. If through their combined efforts they carefully identify and generalize everything new and useful in crew cruise experience and if this is passed along to others, we may consider that the school of long-range cruises is continuing to operate actively on shore too. It gives the commanders rich new knowledge based on the latest practical achievements of Soviet seamen.

During the 1976 training year Soviet navy ships covered many tens and hundreds of thousands of miles in the World Ocean. The might of the Navy was further bolstered, its experience with ocean cruises became even richer, and the contribution of navy seamen to accomplishing the tasks given to the Armed Forces by the 25th CPSU Congress grew even more significant. And it is very important to generalize everything that has now been achieved, carefully uncover shortcomings, and see that experience which has been acquired is passed on so that subsequent cruises by Soviet naval ships will be even more successful, so that navy seamen will continue to reliably guard the security of our country.

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PROGRESS OF BAYKAL-AMUR RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION REVIEWED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Col Gen Tech Trps A. Kryukov, chief of the railroad troops: "The Operating Kilometers of the BAM"]

> [Text] The Baykal-Amur Mainline [BAM] is a construction project which has no equal in the world. It stretches some 3200 kilometers across the empty tayga and rocky hillocks. In order to build this railroad, it is essential to move over 300 million cubic meters of dirt, erect 3500 bridges and spillways, cut scores of kilometers of tunnels through the mountains, and build more than 2000 stations and sidings. Out of all this enormous amount of work, a large share is in the eastern section of the BAM which is being built by the railroad troops.

The builders of the mainline of the century have encountered the third BAM winter. At Tynda and Fevral'sk, strong frosts have already set in. But this does not show in the working rhythm of the construction site. The broad cuts extend further and further from the support bases, roads are built, bridges are put up, and completely equipped settlements are growing up. Even now the worker trains are moving across the tayga. They are delivering new equipment, span elements for bridges, reinforced concrete elements, and panels of housing--tens of thousands of tons of freight. The BAM is being built and the pace is picking up.

Some 18 months ago, on the section of the route, where the equipment operators under the command of Maj G. Korotkov commenced work, we observed the first indications of the construction project. We were surrounded by silent hillocks and the undulating maris [larch forests] stretched off to the distance. Now the tayga is deafened with the roar of motors. A good highway has been built connecting the section to the support base. Scores of powerful excavators and dump trucks are engaged in building the roadbed. The equipment is operated continuously. Whoever has visited the line under construction and has seen the BAM conditions, knows what effort all of this costs.

It is difficult to inhabit the new area. There was no housing. The intense cold and the permafrost put the equipment out of operation. There were no repair facilities. The young equipment operator servicemen did not have

sufficient skills in working under the difficult climatic and geological conditions. But the men did not complain. The personnel of the battalion developed a socialist competition under the motto of "Better Use of the Equipment, Higher Labor Productivity and Quality." The excavator crews began to compete with one another for the highest output and for exemplary maintenance of the equipment. The battalion officers and the communists were able to mold into a single channel the ardent enthusiasms and drive among the young construction workers with the engineering experience of the older ones, and to reinforce precise organization of labor with good material support. At the outset of September, the battalion commenced its new work plan as the plan for the first year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan was fulfilled ahead of time.

The military construction workers have won a remarkable labor victory on another section of the mainline. At one time, they had reported that a diesel locomotive had arrived at the tayga Soloni Station from Urgal. And that was a new success. The "silver pin" which marked the first 100 BAM kilometers was put in at Amgun' Station. And this event occurred 3 months ahead of the planned date. Having set the labor watch, the track laying soldiers promised to lay scores of kilometers before the end of the year.

At the BAM Sgt A. Ardashev, Jr Sgt F. Medvedev, Pfc Yu. Yekimov, Pvts Ya. Mykitsaya, I. Dmitriyev, N. Kuznetsov, R. Valiyev, and many others are called pacesetters as for several months now they have been working in the second year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan. But the deeds of these young persons are not only noteworthy for the percentages. The construction project has become the start of their labor biography, has strengthened characters, and instilled courage and civil maturity in them.

Recently on the route the following instance happened with communist, Pvt M. Senkus. This class specialist had been given home leave back to Lithuania by the commander for outstanding work and flawless service. How surprising it was to those present when the soldier refused to go on leave:

"The electric station must soon be set up, and there are young soldiers working there. They need help. May I have permission to go on leave...somewhat later?"

The soldier went on leave, but only after the diesel of the electric plant had begun to work and the garrison was receiving light, heat and energy.

Such an attitude toward the job is an indicator of the effect of the political workers the party and Komsomol organizations on the men, that is, those who from the very first days at the BAM make the entire personnel aware of the greatness of the construction project, help the soldiers overcome the difficulties, and develop in them high political qualities and morale. In this regard, I would like to mention the names of such experienced commanders and political workers as officers L. Bogdanov, Yu. Tertyshnyy, V. Bondarevskiy, I. Chemerinskiy and A. Kuznetsov. They and many other officer communists by their word and personal example encourage the personnel to unstinting labor.

The BAM is a youth construction project. And the youth, as is known, responds to each patriotic initiative, and willingly participates in a competition. The military council and the political directorate of the railroad troops have recently approved the initiative of the personnel in the subunit commanded by officer N. Chukalin. This is to join the socialist competition for the honorary right of signing the report of the Lenin Komsomol to the CPSU Central Committee on the occassion of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. This movement has now encompassed all the units building the BAM.

Things are going successfully for the initiators of the competition. By the end of September they had fulfilled the annual plan, having built scores of bridges on the service road of the mainline.

What has brought about the success of the collective? First of all, the good organization of the socialist competition and high military discipline. The command and the party organization, in the aim of raising the effectiveness of the competition, worked out a comprehensive plan of organizational and political work to fulfill the production quotas and assumed pledges, and are waging an active struggle to carry this plan out. Constant attention is given to economic training and to raising the technical level of the personnel and to arming the officers with the methods and skills of economic analysis, as a major condition for improving the socialist competition for high effectiveness and quality of construction work. Work has been intensified in introducing the requirements of the new general military regulations into daily life, and to improving control over efficiency.

An example of courage and intrepidness has been shown by the military railroad workers in a critical situation which once developed on the Amur. A strong wind broke a pontoon with nine soldiers on it away from the shore and carried it off. The uncontrolled pontoon hit a shoal and enormous waves were breaking on it. A mortal danger hung over the soldiers. An entire battalion responded to save their comrades. Three were selected: Jr Sgt A. Dravchenko and Pvts G. Davydov and M. Yermakov. They set out in a small boat on the dangerous mission. The speed of the hurricane-force wind reached 30-40 meters a second. The river raged, threatening to devour the brave men. But the intrepid soldiers faithful to the sacred feeling of comradeship were not frightened off. For many hours they waged an unequal duel with nature and conquered it. The life of their comrades was saved.

Are there any difficulties or unsolved problems in the construction project? Of course there are. The BAM, as they say, cannot be taken by bare hands, and the railroad cannot be built without equipment and without a sound production base. Unfortunately, there still are officer leaders who act differently. They try to take the tayga by storm, as they say, head-on, without securing the rear. Some of them make careless use of the machinery and equipment. In the actual work of individual commanders, the emphasis is still put on fulfilling the plan by gross and not enough attention is given to the prompt fulfillment of the specific tasks and putting the project into operation. In some places the organization of labor is low, and the established production methods are violated. The established work plans are not always fulfilled precisely.

The command and the military council of the railroad troops and the commanders and political bodies of the units involved in building the BAM are taking measures to eliminate the shortcomings. At present, the specialization of the subunits is being successfully continued for the basic types of work. The soldiers are working on two shifts on the most important projects. The repair facilities of the construction project are being improved. The party organizations are focusing the attention of the communists on improving organizational and technical leadership over the troop collectives, and on raising responsibility for efficient use of the allocated forces and means.

The approved measures have a positive effect upon the fulfillment of the economic indicators. The quota for the growth of labor productivity during the 11 months of the current year was overfulfilled, construction costs are being reduced, and the indicators for the fulfillment of the profit plan are improving. The plan for construction-installation work during the first year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan as of today has been significantly overfulfilled.

And behind all of this, one can see the unstinting labor of the railroad troops for whom the BAM has become not only a road to the ocean but also a road to tomorrow. Here, on the difficult kilometers of the mainline they are improving their political and combat morale qualities, they are growing stronger spiritually and physically, and are demonstrating their total loyalty to the motherland and to the cause of communism.

10272
CSO: 1801

MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDER ON TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Col Gen V. Govorov, troop commander of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "The Determining Direction"]

[Text] The new training year has started, a year of responsible tasks and intense struggle to further improve military skills. One of our main tasks and determining directions in the activity of all the military personnel is a rise in the quality and effectiveness of the work. We are directed to this by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, and the October (1976) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The speech of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, at this plenum profoundly and thoroughly brought out the significance of the policy set by the party of improving the quality and effectiveness of work in all elements of the national economy, and the ways were shown for achieving this aim.

To work better, to work more efficiently and to work with maximum effort--this demand of the party's applies fully to the activities of the commanders, political bodies, staffs, party and Komsomol organizations. The fulfillment of this demand depends largely upon a further improvement in the style of our work in the area of leading military training.

The experience of the leading units and subunits indicates that the effectiveness of the labor of their personnel depends largely upon a precise planning of military and political training. The bases of future success are established in the plans, as is known, regardless of for what period the plans are designed.

For example, it is a pleasure to note the remarkable positive shifts in planning which have occurred during the past training year in the Guards Kantemir Tank Division. The commander and the staff, in drawing up the plans, each time proceed from what questions must be solved by the subordinates during the given training period and that in the program it is essential to establish what the attention of the executers must be drawn to. In other words, the plan clearly and precisely indicates the basic directions of work. Here, consideration is given to the degree of preparedness of the units and subunits, the positive experience and the disclosed shortcomings. Let me explain this by an example.

During the winter training period of last year, serious shortcomings were discovered in certain subunits in the organization and conduct of the company tactical exercises. A careful analysis indicated that these were a consequence of the poor procedural abilities of certain battalion and company commanders and the hurry in organizing the exercises which did not permit the leaders to have an opportunity to think out thoroughly the plan for conducting them and to prepare the material facilities. All of this was taken into account in planning summer training. Time was assigned for thorough procedural training of the commanders and for procedural instructor and demonstration exercises. The plans of the units and subunits were corrected, and the times for holding the company exercises were systematized. This made it possible to have fuller use of the rich capabilities of the training fields.

The promptness of the conducted measures and their thorough analysis helped to avoid the shortcomings and to improve the quality of the company exercises during the summer training period.

With regret it must be pointed out that in some units the planning was carried out in a far from effective manner. At times the plans were compiled formally, without a thorough study of the nature of the pending missions. The measures outlined in them did not "link up" with one another. From them at times it was difficult to understand at what questions in one or another training period the basic efforts of the commanders, staffs, political workers, party and Komsomol organizations were aimed.

Instances were also encountered when individual commanders and staffs did not plan exercises for certain crucial subjects. In one of the units, one could look in vain in the exercise schedules for subjects related to nighttime training. And certainly great attention should be given to nighttime exercises. One was struck by something else. Certain particular field subjects were to be worked on not in the field but in the classroom. We did not pass over such instances, we provided a fundamental party evaluation for each of them, we taught the commanders and staffs the art of planning, and made certain that it was carried out on a scientific basis in each unit.

For example, the district staff officers were attracted by the positive experience in long-range and daily planning in one of the aviation units. They were attracted by its thoroughness, by its clarity and a knowledge of the situation in the subunits. All the planning documents of the units and subunits which together reflect the course of fulfilling the plans here are worked out with great carefulness. They clearly indicate in what subunit the procedural sequence of instruction has been violated and where arbitrary planning has been allowed. This provides the commander with an opportunity to take rapid measures for eliminating the errors. The district staff officers studied the experience of this unit, and, proceeding from the particular features of the branches of arms, recommended it for the motorized rifle, tank and artillery regiments, and here it has been widely spread.

However, no matter how well planning is organized, the plans are only the beginning of the matter. The main thing is to organize their unfailing and effective fulfillment. Here well organized control and accounting of plan fulfillment mean a great deal.

For successfully leading military training the commander must know how the plans are being fulfilled on a daily basis, what subunits do not require concern, and where his immediate intervention is needed. In a word, the staff each day should possess exhaustive information on the course of military training and the socialist competition.

Once I observed at a tactical exercise the actions of the motorized rifle battalion under the command of Capt V. Belyy. Mistakes were made as often by the commander himself as by his subordinates. I inquired from the regiment commander what preparation had preceded the exercise, how many instructor-procedural, demonstration and inspection exercises had been conducted, what was their quality, and did they provide the personnel with a good deal of aid. I was unable to obtain a precise answer to these questions. And the chief of staff could not answer them.

It turned out that no one had been bothered with these questions. And at the same time, the quality of the exercises preceding the training was poor. After this could one really hope that the exercise itself would be carried out on a high level? One would think not. The main reason for the poor actions of the subunit during the exercise was in an ignorance of the job and in the absence of concrete control over the course of military training.

To keep one's finger on the pulse of the unit's life, and to constantly supervise the course of military training--this should be seen by the commander and organizer of the training process as one of his most important tasks. Then there will be fewer mistakes, omissions and shortcomings. The experience of the leading officers shows this.

I would like to mention the commander of the field engineer traning battalion, Lt Col L. Skokov. Control holds a prominent place in his activities. He inspects not only the course of the exercise itself but also the preparations for it, he analyzes the content of the outlined plans of the company and platoon commanders, he examines the mistakes made in detail, and provides the required procedural advice. And all of this tells positively upon the quality of the exercises and their effectiveness. For several years the battalion has been an outstanding one.

Control requires planning and thoroughness. It has nothing in common with random raids or a superficial view of the course of the exercises. And unfortunately, such instances are still encountered. And the commander who practices such a style hears comments on the poor control over combat training with scarcely concealed resentment. They feel here I have been running around all day and suddenly such an accusation. But the effectiveness of a commander's work is judged not from the energy expended but from the results. As an illustration I will show just how the working day goes for one of the regiment commanders.

In the morning the officer inspected the fulfillment of the daily routine and was present at exercises at the firing range. Then he went to the tank driving field, where one of the companies was performing an exercise in tank

driving. On the same day, the commander inspected the preparations of the daily detail, the organization of meals and was concerned with other matters.

As can be seen, the man actually did not sit still. But is this a merit? But doesn't such a busy day which, incidently, is not an exception but rather the regular style of this commander show that in his activities there is no feeling of purposefulness or the ability to focus one's attention on the fundamental questions and unsolved problems?

Possibly, there are no such problems in the regiment. But there are. And one of them is to improve the tank firing training methods. It had repeatedly been noted that in the subunits that instead of consistent, strictly individual training, the tank troops had been rushed into firing, and this had lead to a great consumption of ammunition and had not produced the proper effect in acquiring firm skills. Neither prior to this nor on that day did the commander give attention to eliminating the shortcoming, although the tank firing training sessions in the regiment were being conducted in many comapnies. Unfortunately, the officer could not find time to control them.

A similar work style is inherent, unfortunately, to certain other commanders. For this reason we have demanded and will demand in the new training year that all the unit commanders have a calendar personal work plan for the month which would be approved by the superior chief. The presence of such plans will teach the commander to select the main links in the chain of numerous tasks and to thoughtfully supervise the work of subordinates.

The organizational work of a commander is a most important aspect in his daily activities. But his personal involvement in the conducting of exercises, training and sessions also means a great deal. During the past training year, we decided to make a detailed check on how the regimental commanders, their deputies and the staff officers perform this function of theirs.

For example, the commander of the guards Shavlinsk Motorized Rifle Regiment, Guards Lt Col V. Chernyy, was concretely concerned with military training. He repeatedly conducted demonstration and inspection exercises for the officers on the most different and usually most difficult subjects, and he led the tactical firing exercises with the military equipment in the battalions. The participation of the commander in the conducting of the exercises, his authority and procedural erudition greatly aided in improving the quality of military training in the regiment.

But in the check, we also encountered instances of a different sort. Certain commanders during the training period did not conduct a single exercise in combat training in their subordinate subunits.

The effectiveness of the work in the area of improving the quality of military training is largely determined by the active participation of the political bodies, the party and Komsomol organizations in this. In the district there are many party organizations which conduct a constant struggle for high quality military and political training. Among them is the party

committee where Capt V. Gridnev is the secretary. In the unit party committee and in the primary party organizations, they keep a close watch on the questions of the personal responsibility of the communists for the quality of the training process, and are concerned with creating an atmosphere of great exactingness in each troop collective.

One of the most important directions in the activity of a party organization is the introduction of advanced experience. The party committee has repeatedly organized speeches by the best instructors and has been concerned with the introduction of technical innovations everywhere. The communists have made a worthy contribution to the good results achieved by this unit.

Since the start of the new training year, in the district groups, as in all the Armed Forces, a socialist competition has developed to properly celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It mobilizes the men to successfully fulfill the tasks posed for the Armed Forces by the 25th Party Congress and by the October (1976) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. In the improvement in the leadership over military training and the socialist competition, and in improving planning we see a major reserve for improving the quality and effectiveness of the entire training process.

10272
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MILITARY SCHOOLS MUST DEVELOP CULTURED BEHAVIOR, MORALITY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Capt 1st Rank N. Kostikov, candidate of philosophical sciences: "Teaching Cultured Behavior"]

[Text] At the Kaliningrad Higher Naval School they are keeping a story from the Copenhagen newspaper AKTUELT about our cadets who visited the Danish capital. Stuffed with falsehoods about the Soviet Union, the writer of the story observed the behavior of the guests to ascertain with his own eyes whether his information was correct. Meeting with reality, however, he was amazed at the great culture, tact, and manners of our cadets. The Dane was forced to conclude that the rules of good behavior are deeply instilled in our cadets.

Well, he is correct. Our cadets really are very cultured in behavior. They are filled with a sense of the own dignity, take pride in belonging to the Armed Forces of the USSR, and revere the lofty honor of defending our socialist homeland. But what are these qualities based on? They are based on objective conditions; the whole of our Soviet way of life instills them. The family, school, Pioneer organization, and the Komsomol -- these are all rungs of a single ladder which the young man climbs in molding his inner world, views, and convictions. They go to military school with him, and there the process of moral development continues.

The commander's high standards, strict regulation order, and skillful educational work are crucial conditions for continued development of highly cultured behavior in the cadets. But it would be a mistake to think that all problems can be resolved under army conditions by simply saying "This is allowed and that is forbidden." The main task of the moral guide, in my opinion, is to see that the cadet is profoundly aware of why he should do "this and not that."

We cannot deny it: the young people who come to our school generally have received good moral upbringing. But does this mean that concern for the cadet's inner world can be relegated to a secondary place? Certainly not. After all, we are talking about molding important qualities of a future officer, commander, and moral guide.

For example, it is commonly known that culture in behavior has its own form and content. In other words, the external behavior is closely tied to the person's inner culture, his overall moral makeup. Is this combination always so harmonious? Unfortunately, in many cases this must be answered in the negative.

Sometimes you look at a cadet, talk with him, and immediately sense some kind of contradiction. He appears to be a well-read, educated person, but has a messy appearance and behaves too casually. Another one, by contrast, looks fine, but his moral qualities have to be polished and polished some more. It seems to me that it is the job of senior, more experienced comrades to help the cadet find an organic combination of moral principles and correct, attractive presentation of them. But what methods and forms of work can be used here?

I do not think I will be mistaken to say that all the school disciplines offer broad opportunities for moral education of our future officers. For example, take the purely external factors: the ability to behave at training periods and to formulate one's thoughts clearly and concisely in answering questions. Small things? But then, a building is built of individual bricks. Remembering this, the teachers of the department headed by Capt 1st Rank V. Smyshnikov always try, when conducting training periods, to stress the idea that discipline, organization, and precision help one use modern weapons most effectively, give battle orders exactly, and see that they are carried out.

Of course, the greatest opportunities for moral education appear in the study of the social sciences. And this means not just Marxist-Leninist philosophy, pedagogy, and psychology. In lectures on CPSU history, for example, in relating the party's struggle to build a new world and telling about outstanding revolutionaries, experienced teachers always try to emphasize their lofty ethical qualities and moral purity.

It is entirely understandable that a correct stereotype of behavior, one which corresponds to the principles and norms of communist morality, is developed not only through the influence of the commander and teachers, but also involves active participation by the party and Komsomol organizations and the community.

I recall the case of cadet S. Khass. He was an intelligent, capable young man. But there were problems with discipline and his attitude toward training. Nonetheless he had some reputation among his classmates. His comrades liked the independence of Khass' "reasoning," his carefree, devil-may-care attitude.

The matter ended when Khass and cadet D. Tolokonnikov committed a serious offense which was absolutely incompatible with the concept of cadet honor, the honor of a future officer. Both cadets were dismissed from school.

This case forced us to give serious thought to whether everything possible had been done to prevent the misdeed. And a detailed analysis showed that

the work done with the cadets by the commander had not been adequately supported by the Komsomol organization. Little attention was devoted to molding public opinion with respect to the offenders.

While speaking of instilling culture of behavior in cadets we should dwell specially on forms and methods of influencing them during offduty hours. How these hours are used, how leisure time is organized, will in large part determine the success of the process of instilling culture in general in a person, and culture of behavior in particular.

Free time is the least promising sphere for relying on the force of orders and prohibition. The desired result should be sought entirely through a well thought-out system of influencing the consciousness of the cadets and creating proper conditions for reasonable recreation.

We were disturbed for a long time, to give an example, by the fact that certain cadets usually spent their evenings off at dances in the city park. We decided to hold recreation evenings at the school itself, and we now do so regularly. Careful preparations are made for each evening. We invite guests from the institutes and enterprises of the city. These evenings have become an additional school for moral education.

We have begun to pay more attention to organizing leave time for the cadets. Whereas before this was basically a matter of checking their uniforms and giving some advice like "Behave yourself," it is now supplemented with information on theater and movie schedules, interesting sports events, and the like. To some extent this makes it possible to "program" the use of free time.

Lectures, practical training periods, a few hours of rest... The cadet years pass quickly. But they leave a mark all one's life. And the more knowledge and skills acquired during school, the higher the graduate's cultural level is, the more confidently later service will go and the easier it will be for the officer to gain authority among his subordinates. All who are entrusted with the technical and moral education of military cadres are obliged to remember this and take care to see that the development of cadets is comprehensive and harmonious.

11,176
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MANY SOURCES OF TENSION IN SUBMARINE BATTLE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Dec 76 p 1

[Article by Capt-Lt G. Bautin, submarine executive officer: "The Algebra of the Duel"]

[Text] The night sea breathed in even swells, rolling the spindle-like body of the ship from side to side. Rising on the next crest, the submarine exhaled heavily at the scuppers like a person returning home after hard work.

The distant shore with its deep blue outlines was indeed our home. We were guiding our ship to it. I do not know about the ship, but we ourselves were deeply tired. After a long cruise and a hard battle.

I would perhaps be correct to say that the greatest load the submariner must carry is psychological. You never know when the enemy will appear, in an hour, a day, two days... The jump from a tranquil, smooth cruise situation to the abrupt dynamics of battle may occur at any moment. But this switch of states, this contrast of situations which occurs once in reality, is experienced internally many times by the submarine men.

The submarine pierced the salt curtain of the water, periodically changing its position. Looked at from outside, it would probably have been compared to a gigantic fish hunting for prey. Indeed we were searching, and our ship's "fins," the horizontal and vertical rudders were set in motion to carry out the commander's plan -- to make a meeting with our rival inescapable. Generally, every submarine commander knows the most advantageous way to search. That is arithmetic, so to speak. But success comes to the one who is a little more inventive, a little more determined, who has a little stronger nerves, greater skill, and better coordinated crew. It is this "little" that constitutes the whole algebra of success. From an apparently random contact to an apparently chance superiority in speed of firing the torpedo.

For a long time the only answer the sea gave to all our expectation and waiting was the rhythmic song of the propellors of fishing seiners, the jerky chugging of transports, and an occasional dolphin whistle. All

this poured by turn into the sensitive "ear" of the sonar station and then was immediately replaced by the other noises of the underwater world around us. The sounds are given to Warrant Officer M. Pletnev, petty officer in charge of the sonar team, to judge. Among the crew he is called "our Shumikhin," comparing him with the famous Northern Fleet sonarman of the Great Patriotic War. This is a tribute to the warrant officer's skill and experience. And I must say that Pletnev's skill not only helps the crew in the fight against the enemy, but also lightens the psychological load by freeing the ship commander and all of us from superfluous worry. This is because we all have a conviction that if there is the slightest chance to lock onto the enemy Pletnev will not miss it.

When a battle has been conducted well the submariners say, "That was not an attack, it was a symphony!" I heard these words while I was still a cadet. But only after going through the tension of torpedo attacks many times was I able to understand the very deliberate choice of words in the comparison. An outstandingly conducted battle is a battle without a hitch, where not a single participant breaks down, hits the wrong note, or "plays" out of turn. For they cannot be concealed from the enemy, who will observe any carelessness and will not forgive it.

Ship commander Capt 3rd Rank Ye. Nevyarovich spent a long time polishing the skill and "togetherness" of the "underwater ensemble," the ship's battle team. They practiced their "parts" in future battles by the elements in the training offices of the base, on trainers, and on trips to the test range. There cannot be deep confidence in success without such hard work.

A faintly audible sound, vibrating on one note! This was enough, though, for Warrant Officer Pletnev to confidently report detection of the target.

When the siren notified the crew of the battle alert, the submarine had actually already begun its duel with the enemy. But the enemy did not even suspect that the elements of his movement were already known to us. During these minutes it would seem that the commander would only have to worry about the flow of the battle. But I know that he still managed to pay attention to every action of his subordinates. And that is only natural, for to all of us the commander always, especially in battle, means support, help, the criterion of truth, and the final level of control.

Of course, there is no need to worry about Sr Lt A. Ishekov, commander of the mine-torpedo battle section, or Capt-Lt-Engr Yu. Shcherb, engineer-mechanic, but the comparative inexperience of the navigator and the nervousness of the chief of the radar service cannot be forgotten.

Try to imagine that you carried the burden of the commander's responsibility for performance of the mission at sea, for the ship, for the lives of dozens of men. This will make it clear that even at the most

critical moments in the battle he cannot be just a tactician who is solving the one problem of bringing the torpedo into contact with the enemy ship. And it is this load of responsibility and concern for the crew and the faith they feel in him that help the commander solve the equation of underwater battle in victory's favor.

The seconds and minutes dragged by. It seemed like eternity, and this was during swift preparation for firing. It was because nothing can ever guarantee your tactical advantage under water, your beating the enemy, until the moment of firing. And only when that shortest of commands, "Fire!" rings out, to be followed by a light sensation of jerking does the ship respond with an unheard sigh of relief.

But this does not exhaust the tension of battle. Suppose that the commander of the mine-torpedo group reports that the torpedoes have been successfully launched, that the navigator, quickly laying it out on a mapboard, determines the calculated result of the attack, and finally the sonarman confirms, "The noise of the submarine's propellors and the torpedo merged at bearing ... degrees."

Afterward there will be another complex maneuver and only then will the dark streamlined body of the submarine appear at the surface, noisily throwing off the water. And a load will fall from the shoulders of the crew.

That is just how everything was for us a few hours ago. On what proved, after we had surfaced, to be a clear moonlit night.

The red glow of a cigarette illuminates the pensive face of the commander from time to time. He is resting, and thinking. Perhaps he is reflecting that, after all, nothing is sweeter than rest after a good job. Maybe he is thinking that our native shore is inexpressibly lovely even at night. And certainly the commander is thinking a little about the next battle, which already now is beginning to excite us.

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KOMSOMOL, LEADERS CRITICIZED FOR POOR WARRANT OFFICER TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Capt 2nd Rank-Engr A. Kontiyevskiy, Red Banner Black Sea Fleet: "They Forget the Warrant Officers -- Reports and Elections in the Komsomol"]

[Text] Taking advantage of jamming, enemy planes were trying to strike the missile ship unexpectedly from different altitudes. The subordinates of Capt-L. M. Grechukhin skillfully repulsed the air attacks. Then when the time came to fire at the rocket target and the radar screens proved to be completely clogged with a curtain of interference, operators-seamen V. Prokhorov and M. Chukanov expertly picked out the blip from the actual velocity of the target and made it possible for the missilemen to use their mighty weapon at maximum range.

This episode from combat training is typical for the subunit of missile ships which won first place for the results of the training year. The seamen got good and outstanding marks for all their missile fires at air and water-surface targets, while the artillerymen fired quite well too. The ship commanded by Capt-Lt M. Grechukhin was the first in the subunit to win the title of outstanding. The ship's Komsomol organization was awarded a pennant of the Komsomol Central Committee reading "For Successes in Communist Education of Young People."

The number of specialists first and second class has grown some in the subunit and it has more outstanding battle posts, squads, teams, and battle sections. Their socialist obligations were basically fulfilled. Needless to say, the Komsomol organization headed by Warrant Officer V. Spirivak made its contribution to the overall success, and this was mentioned at the report-election Komsomol meeting.

But the course of the meeting itself, the report and the talks, led one to think more about what was not said and about what, in my opinion, was absolutely necessary to say.

When speaking of fulfillment of socialist obligation I deliberately said they were fulfilled "basically." Unfortunately, not everything planned

was accomplished, and the contributions of the crews to the overall success were far from equal. One of them even received a "satisfactory" mark upon returning from the cruise, although it had obligated itself to earn at least a "good." The Komsomol organization did a certain amount of work to insure that Komsomol members set an example in combat training, but they did not use all opportunities for this. As a result, some seamen did not fulfill their obligations, were unable to raise their ratings, and failed to master related specializations. There were violations of discipline in the subunit too.

In a careful analysis of affairs in the Komsomol organization one is struck by the fact that there are numerous new warrant officers among the Komsomol members who are holding the collective back. For example, 70 percent of the violations of military discipline were committed by precisely these warrant officers. Some of them do not know their specializations well either. So it turns out that instead of being the officers' first assistants and inspiring their comrades and subordinates to struggle to perform combat training missions well through their personal example, some of the warrant officers were at the tail end of competition month after month. Team leaders-warrant officers V. Tkachenko, V. Litvinenko, and certain others, falling behind themselves, could not help retarding the growth of their subordinates' combat skills.

And what about the Komsomol organization? It did not do much work with the Komsomol warrant officers. Apparently neither the subunit commander nor Capt-Lt A. Korchagin, his deputy in charge of political affairs, told the activists that the time had come to look for ways to solve the problem and structure educational work in a differentiated manner, with due regard for the age, character, and wants of the seamen. Not even the accountability report mentioned Komsomol warrant officers specially, but there were several of them in the subunit. There is no question that the meeting should have had a more detailed and serious talk about the service, public work, and discipline of the Komsomol warrant officers. The facts compelled this.

Six warrant officers took on the obligation to become masters. Two of them made it. After the meeting it turned out that neither Warrant Officer V. Spirivak nor the political worker, Capt-Lt A. Korchagin, knew exactly who had kept his obligation and why the others had not.

The bureau of ship Komsomol organizations has done little to improve the training of warrant officers and instill in them a sense of responsibility for the assigned work. For example, Warrant Officer Sokolov had to report to a session of the bureau, but they took no steps to help this lagging comrade, even though it would seemingly have been simple: Sokolov works next to Warrant Officer V. Murenko, a master of combat qualifications. Many such examples can be given,unfortunately.

No attention was paid to the participation of new warrant officers in public work. Warrant officers V. Lushnikov, F. Filippenko, N. Kepin, V. Tkachenko, and some others started skipping Komsomol meetings without

acceptable reasons, and Warrant Officer V. Bondarenko believes to this day that when it is time to pay membership dues the secretary should have to look for him. These men do not have Komsomol assignments, have not taken an interest in the life of the organization, but not one of the activists has had the principles to take this matter up in all its seriousness.

But this indifference has created favorable soil for violations of discipline. As proof let me say that all of the men named above have committed disciplinary offenses in the course of the year.

I do not want to create the impression that things are completely bad in the Komsomol organization. On the ship which I already mentioned, the one commanded by Capt-Lt M. Grechukhin, a great deal has been done to see that warrant officers set an example. The Komsomol bureau is constantly checking their training and has involved each of them in public work. It is not accidental that most of the Komsomol warrant officers there have high ratings, serve without reprimands, and set examples for their subordinates.

But here is the odd thing. The know-how of the Komsomol organization of the leading ship has not become common property. And the Komsomol activists are at fault in this, to a large extent. They did not even set up a talk on mastering the know-how of the best at the report-election meeting. Neither the main speaker nor the others who talked said a word about the fact that the leading Komsomol warrant officers are competing for the right to sign the report to the CPSU Central Committee on the 60th anniversary of Great October. And this means that a powerful lever for increasing the public activism of Komsomol members and their responsibility for the combat readiness of their ships is not being fully used.

One must hope that the Komsomol organization will draw lessons from the past and find a way to see that every Komsomol member, in particular the Komsomol warrant officers, sets a good personal example.

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TOP REFUELING SHIP IN MEDITERRANEAN IN ACTION

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Dec 76 p 2

[Article by Capt 1st Rank V. Yermolayev, Mediterranean Sea: "Compass Points of the Mediterranean -- Everyday Life of the Auxiliary Fleet"]

[Text] The Mediterranean Sea. Even here, in the southern latitudes, the seasons make themselves known. Bad weather took the place of clear sunny days. The sea grew darker and became, as the cruiser commander put it, "humped." But even in bad weather training and drills went ahead on the ships. The only limitations on the intensive rhythm of the cruise were expenditure of fuel, water, and food.

It was soon necessary to replenish supplies on the cruiser and the large antisub ship escorting it. And then, toward evening, the tanker's silhouette appeared on the horizon, right on course. It was the Ivan Bubnov. Our ships approached it from both sides, measuring distance and speed. Soon the light of the searchlights showed hoses being run from the tanker to the ships and the refueling began. The ships only slowed down a little, continuing to travel in their assigned region.

An ordinary, everyday event in the everyday training life at sea. At the same time it is highly significant, evidence that our navy has not only entered the World Ocean but also has auxiliary ships equipped with up-to-date machinery. The tanker Ivan Bubnov is one of these specially designed ships.

A bit later I had occasion to transfer on board the Ivan Bubnov. In a few hours the tanker captain Konstantin Nikolaevich Panov received an order to change course, arrive at the meeting point with one of the destroyers, and transfer fuel, water, food, and other cargo to the ship. The meeting took place at night.

The tanker was following its chosen course. I stood next to the captain on the right wing of the bridge and watched the destroyer approaching from the stern on a parallel course with the tanker, its stem cutting through heavy storm waves in the light of the searchlights. The most important moment had arrived: the destroyer had not only to approach

to the assigned beam distance from the tanker, but also to hold this distance exactly all during the refueling, traveling at exactly the same speed as the tanker. This maneuver, which requires great skill, was performed with apparent ease, ease based on long experience with many refuelings in calms and storms, day and night.

The captain asked the commander to move the destroyer 20 meters forward.

"That's the way, boys!" he said when the ship's receiving tank stood opposite the cargo post of the tanker.

The darkness around was impenetrable. The cold, stark light of the searchlights illuminated just the decks and the foaming swirl of water between the two ships. It appeared that the two ships were immobile, at anchor, but, pressed between the sides of the ships, a turbulent river roared past them with the crests of the waves rising to deck level.

A light, sharp noise rang out below. A thin white thread soared above the stream of water, its weighted end falling on the deck of the destroyer. The heaving line was thrown by the tanker boatswain Petr Guslyakov. He has improved the pneumatic line-heaving pistol by replacing the woven line with a strong, light fishline and substituting in a larger compressed air canister, so that now the heaving line goes 70 meters even in a strong wind.

"Mark the time," the captain said. "It is 20:15 now. For the whole job of 'setting up the way'from heaving the line from the tanker to connecting up the hoses on the destroyer, Guslyakov's team uses half the time permitted by the standard."

The seamen on the destroyer hauled in the line, then the leader rope, and finally the metal carrying cable, which they secured to the superstructure. Now the tanker's winch control post went to work. At the controls was crane operator Georgiy Girich. He turned on the winch and carriages carrying the cross-woven fuel and water hoses slid on rollers along the cable from the top of the cargo post . The first carriage reached the destroyer and the sailors connected the hoses to the tanks. Girich put the unit on automatic control: if the carrying line sagged the winch would take up the slack by itself, and if it got too tight it would let out cable.

"Ready to receive," the destroyer commander reported.

"Delivery is beginning," the captain responded.

Pumpman Petr Novichkov turned on the pumps. The hoses swelled and the bends in them smoothed. The fuel and water were reaching the ship. This time it was just one, but the tank can also supply fuel by the beam and wake methods. Once while out on the Mediterranean Navy Commander Fleet Admiral of the USSR S. Gorshkov observed ships refueling. The commander expressed official gratitude to the crew of the tanker Ivan Bubnov for their skillful actions under difficult weather conditions.

The setting up of the "way" along which the fuel and water were delivered had taken my attention from the bow of the tanker where they had set up a "way" for transferring cargo. This device was more complex. Senior crane operator-electrician Aleksandr Dormidonov sat at the control console for the winches. A hoist raised a mesh container of cargo to deck level, then sailors rolled it on rails to the base of the cargo post. Dormidonov turned on the fork gripper. The container was lifted along a bar to the top of the cargo post, where it was automatically secured to a carriage. Another movement of the crane operator's hand at the control console and the carriage with the container suspended below it was rolling along the carrying cable above the stream of water to the destroyer. The entire operation of delivering a batch of cargo took just minutes. In a short time the destroyer received hundreds of tons of fuel and several containers of cargo, without changing course, virtually without reducing speed.

Special refueling ships which use the beam method of delivering fuel, water, and cargo have considerably raised the efficiency of supplying navy ships at sea. But the inquisitive minds of the sailors of the auxiliary fleet are not resting. They are seeking ways to speed up and improve cargo operations.

There are 19 communists on the tanker Ivan Bubnov. They are all top specialists and skillful seamen. At the initiative of the party organization there is vigorous socialist competition on the ship to increase efficiency and work quality at sea and earn the title "collective of communist labor." All assignments are performed on time and the ship mechanisms are maintained in exemplary condition. Many of the crew members engage in extension study. Efficiency workers have improved the efficiency of numerous operations. The tanker Ivan Bubnov rightly occupies first place in the fleet among vessels of its class. On its last run the crew's work received an evaluation of "outstanding."

The instrument indicator at the pumping station showed that the last ton of fuel was being pumped. The cargo "way" was already up. In a few minutes the carriage slid back along the cable, and then the carrying cable itself was hauled in.

"Thank you, captain! Your work was flawless," the voice of the destroyer commander, amplified by the speaker, was heard.

"Thank you. Bon voyage!" Panov answered.

The destroyer reduced speed. Its lights slowly drowned in the gloom of the stormy night. The tanker set a new course. Another refueling lay ahead.

[Captions to photos that were not reproduced] 1. Tanker Captain K. Panov; 2. Refueling in progress.

END

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