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The following contains selected translations from the People's Army magazine published in Hanoi

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

VIETNAMESE NATIONAL DEFENSE SAID TO HAVE NEW BASIS

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp 9-20

[Article by Le Nguyen: "The New Basis of the National Defense of All the People of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam"]

[Text] With the complete and absolute victory of the enterprise of resisting the U.S. for national salvation, our people very gloriously concluded 30 years of extremely difficult, arduous, and glorious years of liberation war and war to defend the nation waged by our people. Our people completely eliminated the U.S. aggressors and the lackey puppet administration apparatus, won independence, freedom, and unification for the Fatherland, won all of our beautiful country from Cao Lang to Minh Hai, and opened the way for the entire nation to advance to socialism.

The Vietnamese revolution has entered a new phase, the phase of the entire nation fulfilling a single strategic mission -- carrying out the socialist revolution and building socialism. This is the phase in which our people being the enterprise of creating in our beloved Vietnamese Fatherland the finest social system in history, without the exploitation of man by man, a system of collective mastery by the laboring people, a social system in which all laborers are well-off, civilized, and happy.

That is the aspiration, the hope, and the dream of the laboring people of our country. It is the inevitable path of development of the Vietnamese revolution and is also a path that is entirely in accord with the developmental laws of the society of mankind in the present era, the era of transition from capitalism to socialism in the sphere of the entire world. It is a path which will enable our Fatherland to permanently escape from backwardness and poverty and transform our Fatherland into a socialist nation "with a modern industrial-agricultural economy, progressive culture and science, strong national defense, and a civilized and happy way of life.* Socialism

* The quotes in this article are excerpts from the "Outline Political Report of the Central Committee at the 4th Party Congress," NHAN DAN, 5 November 1976.

will also enable our Fatherland to have a modern, strong national defense of all the people, the strongest national defense in the history of our nation, which is sufficiently strong to defeat any imperialist aggressor and stoutly defend the independence, freedom, and unity of the Fatherland and all accomplishments of our people's revolution.

Why will our Fatherland's national defense under the socialist system have such a new, peerless strength? In order to clarify that matter we must proceed by analyzing the new bases regarding the political-social, economic, cultural, ideological, and human aspects of our country's national defense under the socialist system.

1. The Peerless National Defense of All the People of the Socialist Vietnamese Fatherland is Based on the System of Socialist Collective Mastership of the Working People

With regard to the victory of the socialist revolution in our country, "the foremost decisive conditions are to establish and continually strengthen the proletarian dictatorship, and to establish and continually develop the right to collective mastery of the laboring people." They are also the preconditions of the great task of consolidating national defense in the new phase, an important part of the socialist revolution in our country.

"The contents of socialist mastership include many aspects: mastership with regard to politics, economics, culture, and society; mastership of nature and of oneself; mastership in the sphere of the entire nation, in each locality, in each base, and in each family; and combining collective mastership with the genuine freedom of each person."

"Creating the system of socialist collective mastership is a process of continuous evolution from a low level to a high level, from imperfection to perfection." To be socialist collective masters is to "be the collective masters with regard to politics in a concentrated manner in the mastership of the laboring people, the hard core of which is the worker-peasant alliance, by means of the socialist state and under the leadership of the Party," to be "the collective masters with regard to economics, which encompasses being collective masters with regard to the means of production, being the masters of the labor forces, and being the collective masters in organizing production management and in the sphere of distribution," and to be "the collective masters with regard to culture, to create for everyone a rich spiritual and cultural life and transform all cultural values into the property of the people and cause the people to become people who directly create all cultural values." To create a system of socialist collective mastership is also to create proper relationships between the collective and the individual," in which "all are for one and one for all." The economic basis of the system of collective mastership is large-scale socialist production. That large-scale production produces increasingly greater wealth in order to meet the increasingly greater spiritual and material needs of the people. Thus the system of socialist collective mastership is the most genuine, most complete system of mastership of the laboring people.

The system of socialist collective mastership which we are creating in accordance with the Party's line of socialist revolution throughout the nation is the most progressive mastership system in the social history of mankind in general and in the history of the evolution of our nation in particular. That social system creates new objective conditions for our Fatherland's national defense to have peerless strength.

With the step-by-step development and consolidation of the system of socialist collective mastership in the process of simultaneously carrying out the three revolutions--the revolution in production relations, the scientific-technical revolution, and the ideological-cultural revolution, of which the scientific-technical revolution is the key--our society will achieve a high degree of political-morale, economic, cultural, and social unity on the basis of socialism.

As we all know, under the eliminated and the workers and laboring peoples, and the various categories of people in society are laborers who are the collective masters. All form a united social community the backbone of which is the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class via its vanguard Party, and work together in striving to successfully build socialism. The unity among the various categories and classes of the people, based on socialism, is the strongest unity, for it is based on unity with regard to all aspects of the rights and obligations of all components of society.

The state of our society in the present revolutionary phase is a new-style state, a state that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people, and fully manifests the people's collective mastership right of the people under the leadership of the Party. Our Party absolutely has no other goal than to serve the benefit of the people. That is an objective, decisive condition with regard to unity between the people and our state in all activities to develop the nation as well as defend the nation.

Under the socialist system of our country, our people, our Party, and our state form a united bloc which is based on proper relationships between the Party and the state and the state and the people, and between the collective and the individual, expressed in the principle: the Party leads, the state manages, and the people are the masters. That is the greatest degree of political unity in history. On the basis of the social system, our Fatherland's national defense of all the people in the fullest sense: voluntarily fulfilling its obligation to build the nation and its obligation to consolidate national defense. Our entire population is united into a bloc, ten thousand as one, under the leadership of the Party and the management and guidance of the state, and devotes its entire strength to fulfilling all national defense obligations well, and is ready to sacrifice for the benefit of the nation and so that the independence, freedom, and socialism of the Fatherland may be everlasting.

During the recent anti-French and anti-U.S. resistance wars the united solidarity block of all the people and the firm confidence were decisive factors which led our people to complete victory. Our people manifested a spirit of

mastery of the national destiny, manifested revolutionary heroism, endeavored to overcome all difficulties, and simultaneously produced and created peerless strength, both spiritual and material, both political and military, and both economic and cultural. Today the high degree of unity with regard to will and action brought about by the process of gradually establishing and completing the system of socialist collective mastery is becoming a motive force which furthers the movement for all the people to build and defend the Fatherland.

With such a system of collective mastership, the initiative and creativity of the 50 million people of our country will be developed to a high degree. That will be a decisive motive force which will further the three revolutions and will at the same time be a motive force which furthers the great undertaking of consolidating national defense. We have very rich actual experience with regard to the effect of the process of developing the people's mastership role during the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation. The North of our country had only recently begun to build socialism and the people's collective mastership right had only recently been established, but it created extremely great strength for the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation and the strength of Vietnamese who had been liberated from the yoke of oppression and exploitation, people who had consciousness of their position and their mastership strength, and who were resolved to fight in accordance with the correct political and military lines of the vanguard Party. Today, when the entire nation has been unified on the basis of socialism, with the collective mastership right continually being developed and perfected, it is certain that the strength of all our people, the strength of 50 million Vietnamese is the enterprise of building socialism as well as in defending socialism, will be multiplied.

The system of socialist collective mastery not only brings about for us a new spiritual strength but also a new, extremely great strength with regard to organization. It is a highly organized strength on the scale of an entire society.

If we can exercise that collective mastership right it is certain that we can develop in an organized manner the extremely great strength of our 50 million people and enable all activities of the laboring people to become highly organized activities on the scale of the entire nation, and therefore unify the revolutionary nature and the scientific nature, create a strength that can move mountains and fill in oceans, overcome all difficulties, flatten all obstacles, eliminate the old, build the new, and enable history to develop at the greatest rate ever in our country.

National defense based on a society that is highly organized is a national defense that not only has limitless forces but also has other solid objective conditions for resolving in the most rational way the relationships between developing the nation and defending the nation, between the economy and national defense, between peacetime and wartime, between the short range and the long range, and between the local level and the national level. That national defense, based on the system of socialist collective mastership, is

certain to be capable of rapidly transforming the combined strength of a national defense of all the people that has been created in peacetime into the great combined strength of people's war to defend the socialist Fatherland and defeat all enemy aggressors should war break out.

It is a national defense with an all-the-people, all-the-nation nature developed to a very high level. It is a national defense which serves the benefit of the people and is created by the entire population, one which is based on the strength of the entire population on a new basis--socialism--and the strength of all blue collar and white collar workers throughout the nation, the people who are the collective masters of the new society. The entire population fulfills the mission of developing the nation and simultaneously fulfills the mission of consolidating national defense. The entire nation fulfills the obligation to defend the nation while at the same time fulfilling the mission of building the nation. Every citizen is both a skilled worker and a skilled soldier. Every factory, state farm, organ, cooperative, and school is both a production and work unit and a unit that is prepared to defend all accomplishments of the revolution. The entire nation is both a vast worksite full of enthusiasm to labor to build socialism and an immense battlefield that is always vigilant and prepared to fight to defend the Fatherland and defeat all plots of sabotage and aggression of the enemy.

That national defense is based on the strength of the entire nation, of both the central level and the local level, and of all strategic areas of operation from the mountains and jungles, the piedmont area, and the lowlands to the coastal area, including both the cities and the rural areas, which are mutually supporting, cooperate closely, develop the combined strength of the entire nation to a high degree, and form the very strong, very stalwart, and very effective battlefield position of national defense by all the people and war to defend the socialist Fatherland under modern conditions.

2. The National Defense of the Socialist Vietnamese Fatherland is Based on Large-Scale Socialist Production

Our Party, on the basis of fully evaluating our country's characteristic of having always been a colonial, semi-feudal country with a backward agricultural economy which advanced directly to socialism without passing through the stage of capitalist development, clearly pointed out that the mission of building socialism in our country is to build socialism from the root to the top. The central mission of the period of transition to socialism in our country is socialist industrialization, advancing our country's economy to large-scale socialist production.

The highest goal of large-scale socialist production is to "assure that the increasingly greater material and cultural needs of the entire society are satisfied, on the basis of the system of collective mastership, by means of continually developing production with increasingly more modern technology.

The line of socialist economic construction in our country, as stated in the Summary Political Report of the Central Committee, is to "Gradually carry out

socialist industrialization and advance our country's economy from small-scale production to large-scale production. Give priority to the rational development of heavy industry on the basis of endeavoring to develop agriculture and light industry and combining the industrial and agricultural development of the entire nation to form a modern industrial-agricultural economic structure; simultaneously developing the central-level economy and developing local industry, and combining the central economy with the local economy in a unified national economic structure; combining the development of production forces with establishing and perfecting the new production relations; combining the economy with national defense; endeavoring to expand economic relations with the fraternal socialist nations and the other nations on the basis of firmly maintaining independence, autonomy, and mutual benefit; and enabling Vietnam to become a socialist country with a modern industrial-agricultural economy, progressive culture and science, strong national defense, and a civilized and happy way of life."

The more victoriously the enterprise of building the country's socialist economy is developed and the better off and happier the lives of the laboring people, the more closely will our people be bound to socialism and the more highly they will develop their spirit of collective mastery, their initiative, and their creativity in all missions in the development of the nation as well as in defending the nation. With that significance, to build a socialist economy is also to strengthen one of the most basic elements of national defense strength--the element of man integrally bound to the new regime.

We all know that national defense strength in the present era cannot be separated from modern scientific-technical bases. Our soldiers and people, who had to fight for more than 30 years under the condition of being far inferior to the enemy with regard to material bases and modern technology, understand even more modern technology, understand even more deeply that the sacrificial price that had to be paid because of our country's economic backwardness. Therefore, today more than ever we must promote the scientific-technical revolution, urgently endeavor to build a truly strong economy, and also having all-out concern for building and consolidating national defense in the process of building the economy and closely combining the economy with national defense. Only with a strong economy can there be strong national defense, but it is not true that if there is a strong economy national defense is naturally strong--national defense must be built as the economy is built.

By achieving the line of economic construction delineated by the Party, it is certain that our people will gradually create a heavy industry with a network of key sectors such as machinery building, metallurgy, energy, chemicals, capital construction, communications and transportation, etc. With regard to the position of heavy industry with regard to the nation in general and to national defense strength specifically, Lenin clearly stated that "without industry our country would perish and could no longer be an independent country." Heavy industry plays a dominant role in the national

economy and is a factor which determines the strength of the material-technical bases of a modern national defense. For it is the sector which produces means of production for all economic sectors and also produces raw materials and machinery to manufacture and repair all types of modern equipment, weapons, and technical facilities for the armed forces and for our country's national defense. There can be no modern, independent, and autonomous national defense industry if the country lacks modern heavy industry.

By carrying out the line of socialist economic construction delineated by the Party our country will have a modern, comprehensively developed agriculture with high productivity and large output, along the lines of large-scale socialist production. That agriculture will be developed with regard to cultivation, animal husbandry, fishing and forestry, and intensive cultivation, increasing the number of seasons, and expanding acreage will all receive attention. We will promote irrigation, improve the soil, positively apply the new scientific-technical accomplishments, and increase mechanization in order to rapidly increase labor productivity. We will rationally redistribute agricultural labor among the various areas of the country, etc.

Such an agriculture is certain to advance to assuring the satisfying of all food needs of our people, the supplying of sufficient amounts of the essential industrial raw materials, and the good service of exports. It must become the basis for industrial development.

We all know that in modern war food and items that are essential for people's lives are always factors of strategic importance. The strategic importance of food in war increases even more when the needs in the daily lives of the soldiers and in their utilization of modern facilities and weapons become greater and more complicated. In order to assure the minimum health standards of the military personnel operating airplanes, tanks, and ships, operating such modern equipment as missiles, radar, etc., they must be provided certain quantities of foodstuffs and certain clothing. Modern war also requires the service of a very large number of people in the rear area, and furthermore the rear area itself also becomes a place where there occurs very fierce fighting in defending against the enemy's aerial destruction. Thus the food needs of the forces serving in the rear area are even greater than that of the direct needs of the forces fighting at the front. That situation demands that the agricultural economy advance to having increasingly greater food reserves in peacetime, and that the agricultural economy continue to produce well in wartime.

By carrying out our Party's economic construction line our people will have modern light industry and food industry capable of advancing to the production of all essential consumer goods in increasingly greater volume and with increasingly greater variety, and to doing a good job of serving the increasingly better material and spiritual lives of the people, serving the expansion of the division of social labor, and serving exports. Such a developed light industry will also be a strong basis on which to advance to satisfying the great and complicated needs of our armed forces with regard

to food, medicine, quartermaster goods, ordnance goods, equipment for activities and training, etc., in both peacetime and wartime.

The process of carrying out the Party's line of socialist economic construction and advancing our country's economy to large-scale socialist production is also a process of carrying out the redistribution of social labor, reorganizing the production forces, redeploing the population, creating a national economic structure along the lines of large-scale socialist production in the sphere of the entire nation as well as in the sphere of each locality, create a modern industrial-agricultural economic structure throughout the nation, combine the economy with national defense, etc. That has an extremely great significance with regard to strengthening the people's armed forces, strengthening local people's war in all areas of the nation, and creating a new strategic battlefield position of national defense of all the people and war to defend the socialist Fatherland, should it break out. Thus we have sufficient conditions to enable all localities to be stable politically, strong economically, and strong with regard to national defense, each production base to be an economic unit and a stalwart national defense battlefield at the base-level, etc.

The strength of the socialist economy is not only manifested in the production forces and in modern material-technical bases, but also in its progressive production relationships. By means of perfecting the socialist production relationships in the provinces of the North and promoting the reform of the production relationships in the South, our people will advance within a few years to enabling the production relationships throughout the nation to merge with one another on the basis of socialism, which feature socialist ownership in two forms--national and collective--with a system of distribution which clearly manifests the right of socialist collective mastership and a system of socialist management and planning. Our people will open the way for production to develop at a rapid rate and utilize and develop as effectively as possible the labor forces and latent capabilities of the nation. The socialist production relationship will also create extremely favorable objective conditions for our Party and state to do a good job of combining the economy with national defense and rationally and scientifically mobilize, organize, and use all economic forces of the nation in order to serve war to defend the Fatherland if it should occur.

Therefore, when our production develops into large-scale socialist production we will have a national defense with increasingly more modern material-technical bases. Those material-technical bases will be based on large-scale socialist production and on a modern economy being gradually developed in our country, with modern industry and agriculture and modern communications and transportation, which combines the central economy and the local economy and which is capable of assuring the supplying of weapons, food, uniforms, and supplies for the armed forces, and of assuring the mobility and operations of the armed forces in all areas of operation of the nation. On the basis of a modern socialist economy there will gradually take form a strong national defense industry for our Fatherland, capable of gradually advancing to the self-production of a system of weapons and the necessary modern war

facilities to supply to the people's armed forces and meet the other complicated needs of the mission of defending the Fatherland under modern conditions. The modern nature of socialist national defense is also manifested in the quantity and quality of the corps of scientists, architects, engineers, technical workers, etc., which is continually developed and trained under the socialist system, at the level of new people with culture who are capable of rapidly assimilating and developing with great effectiveness all modern technical weapons of the people's armed forces and of the entire population with regard to the combat mission of defending the Fatherland under modern conditions.

Because of the creation of a modern socialist economy capable of advancing to meeting all production, livelihood, and national defense needs of our people and expanding international cooperation, under the socialist system our people's national defense will have conditions for developing and fully manifesting its independent, autonomous nature. That national defense will gradually advance to overcoming a great deficiency, which was prolonged in our people's recent war, of having to rely on the fraternal socialist countries for most of the material needs and modern technical facilities, due to the fact that our country's economy was too weak.

3. The National Defense of the Socialist Vietnamese Fatherland is Based on a Society With a High Cultural Level and New Socialist People

To build socialism is not only to build a system of collective mastership and large-scale socialist production, but also to create a high-level culture and new socialist people.

The high-level culture of socialist society, which today our entire population is endeavoring to build, is a culture with socialist contents and a national and popular nature which is based on Marxism-Leninism and the thought of socialist collective mastership. That culture inherits and improves all the fine things in the thousands-of-years-old tradition of our Vietnamese national culture, while also selectively assimilating the accomplishments of the civilization, culture, and technology of mankind. In that new culture all cultural values will be transformed into the common property of the people, and the people will be the direct creators of all cultural values. The relationships among people are based on the noble principle "One for all, all for one," with everyone devoting all to society and society going all-out to care for the lives of all people and families, so that they may be happy in a happy society. It is the most advanced culture in the history of our nation and has reached the high peak of the civilization of mankind.

The new culture, developed by means of the socialist revolution in thought and culture, will gradually eliminate from the socialist life of our nation the ideological and cultural vestiges of the old regimes, wipe out all poisonous ideological and cultural influences of the neocolonialism the U.S. imperialists spread in the South, and deeply imbue all our people with socialist thought, the world view of Marxist-Leninist, the communist philosophy of life, and the new, socialist qualities and virtues. That culture

will enable all our people to have high cultural and technical levels and permanently liberate the laboring people from the ignorance in which they were held by imperialism and feudalism, in order to advance to the richest and noblest spiritual and cultural life.

Such a culture will bring about for all Vietnamese the true value of mankind, evoke and develop to a high degree their consciousness of collective mastership, their voluntariness, their positiveness, and their initiative and creativity, and will provide them with wings so that they can advance with vigorous strength in the great undertaking of building society and conquering nature.

That new culture is an extremely strong motive force, an incalculable new force in the great undertaking of building socialism as well as consolidating national defense in the new era of the nation.

With the combined effect of the three revolutions, socialist society will train a generation of new socialist people--workers, collective peasants, socialist intellectuals, and all other laboring people of a socialist Vietnamese Fatherland which has permanently escaped from all national and class oppression and become people who are the collective masters of society, new, comprehensively developed people who both have a high degree of political consciousness and pure, noble revolutionary sentiment, and who have intelligence and the ability to be masters, masters of society, masters of nature, masters of themselves, and master of the enterprise of building and defending the nation.

They are people with ardent socialist patriotism, with profound awareness of socialist collective mastership and genuine proletarian internationalism, people who are imbued with revolutionary heroism in all activities. They are skilled socialist laborers and at the same time soldiers who skillfully defend the socialist Fatherland. This is the greatest leap forward in the evolving history of the Vietnamese in the history of our nation.

The new quality of the Vietnamese under the socialist system will multiply the strength of our nation. It will be an extremely great strength, a strength much greater than that of any previous period of history, the most certain guarantee of all victories of the enterprise of building socialism and defending socialism and the enterprise of developing the economy and consolidating national defense in the new era of our nation.

With the combined effect of the three revolutions, the socialist system will also train people's armed forces with peerless fighting strength, forces which play an especially important role in strengthening national defense. Our people's armed forces, based on the system of collective mastership, large-scale socialist production, and the new socialist man, will have a strong basis for fully manifesting the qualities of revolution, modernity, and large numbers, as Engels said. Those armed forces include the People's Army, which has a high degree of socialist consciousness, is totally loyal to the Party and the people, has all necessary armed forces branches and

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combat arms with increasingly modern equipment, and with strong combat skills in order to victoriously fulfill all combat missions by means of the military art of people's art to defend the Fatherland under modern conditions. That army has a rich reserve force of very high quality which are created and developed among the laboring people, in all sectors and in all localities, and are appropriate to the requirement of supplementing and developing the forces of the regular, modern People's Army.

In addition to the regular, modern People's Army we have very extensive, strong, and solid mass armed forces which are organized everywhere and on an increasingly greater scale, which are appropriate to the development of socialist large-scale production and enable all localities to have strong forces with which to strongly defend themselves. Therefore, the People's Army can concentrate large strategic mobile forces to strongly develop its offensive positive, defeat the aggressor troops, and stoutly defend the Fatherland.

In the enterprise of building socialism, our people's armed forces are the hard-core forces of all the people, are always prepared to fight and defend the Fatherland, an important labor force for developing the nation, and an assault force on the economic construction front. Our army is a great school for training youths to become new socialist people who both fight skillfully and produce skillfully.

To build socialism and the economy is to create a basis for national defense strength and build national defense strength from the root. Labor to develop the nation and train the new man is part of the nature of our army. In the new phase of the revolution all cadres and men in our country are endeavoring to do a good job of fulfilling the two basic missions of the army--readiness to fight to defend the Fatherland and production labor to build socialism--combining the military obligation to defend the nation with the labor obligation to build the nation. Our entire army is determined to closely combine the combat preparedness and production labor activities and stoutly defend the enterprise of peacefully building the nation, while laboring to build an economy with high productivity and great economic effectiveness, and contributing to, along with the entire nation, advancing our country to socialism.

Under the leadership of the Party, the enterprise of building the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland is certain to win a brilliant victory. In addition, to the victory of socialism in our country, the entire population and the entire army are determined to build a national defense entirely capable of defeating all enemies, keeping our country permanently independent and free, and effectively defending all accomplishments of the socialist revolution in our country.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

MILITARY REGION 4 UNITS ENGAGE IN ECONOMIC WORK

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp 26-33

[Article by Major General Le Tu Dong: "Military Region 4 Determined To Victoriously Fulfill the Combat Readiness and Force Development Mission and the Economic Construction Mission"]

[Text] After the revolution entered the new phase the armed forces of Military Region 4, fully understanding the instructions and resolutions of the Party, began the simultaneous fulfillment of both the combat readiness and force development mission and the economic construction mission. In both spheres the Military Region has achieved results which, although they are only initial results, have very great significance.

The Military Region has done a good job of protecting security in the Military Region, assuring patrolling and guarding in order to defend the seacoast, the border, and the interior, and maintaining order and security on the lines of communication. Binh-Tri-Thien Province has done a good job of mopping up the enemy troop remnants and suppressing the counterrevolutionaries still engaging in surreptitious sabotage activities, and of assuring the safety of the lives and property of the people in the newly liberated areas. The main-force units of the Military Region, along with the provincial and district troops and the militia, guerrilla, and self-defense forces, were further rectified and successfully completed the 1976 training program. At the same time, the armed forces of the Military Region promptly began to fulfill the economic construction mission. The Military Region had the honor of being able to participate in restoring and constructing the 144-kilometer-long Minh Cam-Tien an segment of the Trong Nhat railroad line, with 304 bridges and culverts, which was obliterated during the war, was overgrown with jungle, and had been completely unused for decades. That was a key project of the state which was not only an economic matter but also a national defense matter, as well as a matter of the sentiment of the people of the entire national after several years of division. In order to do a good job of fulfilling that mission, the Military Region tightly led, organized, and commanded it, and regarded the victorious fulfillment of that mission as opening the way for the troops' large-scale economic development mission. To date, after nearly a year of effort, all of the project items, totaling about 60 million

done in state construction investment capital, have been essentially completed, in accordance with the plan, thus contributing to opening the entire line to traffic to celebrate the 4th Party Congress. In addition to the railroad construction project the Military Region is responsible for defending and developing the western transportation route; participating effectively in building small, medium, and large water conservancy projects; and contributing, along with the local people, to bringing the Quang-Chau conduct project in Thanh Hoa into use early. And it is now, along with the other forces, striving to complete before the deadline the Ke Go Dam in Nghe Tinh and the other irrigation projects, as well as operating in the agricultural, forestry, ocean fishing, and other sectors.

In the course of actually fulfilling its missions the Military Region affirmed that with the advent of the new phase the armed forces of the Military Region are entirely capable of developing their tradition in the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation in order to do a good job of fulfilling the missions assigned by the Party, State, Central Military Party Committee, and High Command. The recent accomplishments and experiences are very valuable and created momentum for the entire Military Region to fulfill both the force building and combat readiness mission and the economic construction mission, in the near future as well as in the long range.

On the basis of the mission of defending the Fatherland--the foremost mission of the people's armed forces--and also of the strategic location, the Military Region always pays all-out attention to doing a good job of fulfilling its combat readiness mission and to building increasingly stronger armed forces.

Military Region 4 is a military region with a large area, a large population, coasts and borders hundreds of kilometers long, highly populated areas, large economic areas, national communication arteries, etc. Military Region 4 has been and will be one of the nation's important strategic areas. In the recent war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, the Military Region was a key area which suffered heavy damage. Under the leadership of the Party, from the very beginning the Military Region clearly realized, its great responsibility and endeavored to fulfill the mission of being the direct rear area of the great front line and the front line of the great rear area. Today, in the national defense undertaking of the independent, united, socialist Vietnamese Fatherland, the Military Region must, along with the entire nation, build a national defense of all the people that is stronger than ever. Military Region 4 must also manifest a spirit of revolutionary vigilance, fully understand the nature and plots of imperialism, fully understand the position of the Military Region in the national defense undertaking of the entire nation and, on the basis of fully understanding the Party's viewpoint of national defense by all the people and of the experience of the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation, correctly resolve its problems regarding force building and combat readiness. The Military Region must have strong political, economic, and national defense potential. The armed forces, and the leadership and command echelons in the Military Region must have correct viewpoints, do a good job of resolving the important military problems, and be prepared to fight and fight well to stoutly defend the locality in all ways.

If that is to be achieved there must be a complete defensive deployment plan which is in accord with the over-all plan. Comprehensive, meticulous calculations must be made regarding both force building and combat readiness, both economics and national defense, and both the immediate future and the long range.

The main-force troops of the Military Region must be rearranged, strengthened, and deployed in appropriate positions and areas, and no matter what their mission they must always understand the mission of being mobile forces which are prepared to carry out all missions assigned by the Military Region. The Military Region has set aside an appropriate force to specialize in the combat readiness and training mission, with a certain amount of time set aside for economic development. The units assigned missions of defending the border, the coastal area, the strategic areas, the communication hubs, etc, must fully understand the enemy's situation, our situation, and the local situation, and go all-out to fulfill their missions. No matter where the units are stationed, especially in the newly liberated area, they must always be alert and, along with the other forces, promptly punish the active counterrevolutionaries, smash all of their plots of violence, sabotage, and opposition, protect the Party, protect the people's administration, and protect the accomplishments of the revolution and the people's life of peaceful labor.

The regular provincial units must be strongly developed and be stationed in and fulfill missions in the important positions and areas in the locality, and it must be clearly affirmed that the role and mission of the regular provincial troops is readiness to fulfill the mobile missions of the province and the Military zone and meeting all requirements of the political and military missions within their areas of responsibility.

The distinct military organs must be further strengthened with regard to organization and their responsibility of serving as the effective military staffs for the district party committee and administration in the new situation and mission must be correctly affirmed. It is necessary to fully understand the Party's stand regarding the role of the district echelon at present and develop each district into a basic economic unit which combines agriculture with industry, a solid strongpoint of the proletarian dictatorship for simultaneously carrying out the three revolutionaries, a strong fortress of socialist national defense of all the people. The Military Region must crystallize the experiences of Quynh Luu District and develop those experiences in all districts.

The militia, guerrillas, self-defense forces, and reserve forces must be organized in a manner appropriate to the new organization at the base level, especially the agricultural cooperatives now in the course of reorganizing labor along the lines of large-scale socialist production. We must study the perfection of the organization of militia units and clearly determine the mission of militia and self-defense forces in the new phase, in order to develop the great strength and extensive and solid nature of the mass armed forces in protecting security in the locality and cooperate closely

with the Armed People's Public Security Forces and the naval forces in doing a good job of fulfilling the mission of defending the border, the coasts, the sea islands, the strategic areas, and the liberated areas.

The development of comprehensively strong main-force troops and local troops along the lines of advancing to a regular, modern status is a very important mission of the Military Mission, in order to continually improve quality and combat strength, keep up with the development of the socialist revolution, and be sufficiently strong to fulfill the missions in all circumstances. The Military Region must also develop extensive and strong militia and self-defense forces in the direction of all districts, town, and large enterprises having strong units in order to assure the fulfillment of all political, military, and economic missions in the localities, while also developing large, well-organized, and well-trained reserve forces as the basis for developing main-force troops. The Military Zone must do a good job of military training and assure that there is sufficient time and programs for training and that high quality is attained for the regular troops, the militia and self-defense forces, and the reserve forces.

On the basis of the mission of developing and defending the socialist Vietnamese Fatherland and the economic development mission--very great, important missions of our army--and also on the basis of the economic development missions of the localities, the Military Region must pay all-out attention to organizing the people's armed forces of the entire Military Region to fulfill the economic construction mission.

The area of operations of Military Region 4 consists of provinces with rich natural resources which are being reformed in many ways, with a long coastline and vast continental shelf with rich marine life; with immense jungle-and-mountain areas rich in industrial trees and precious wood trees; and with extensive grain-growing lowland areas with increasingly greater crop productivity. The people of the localities have a tradition of self-reliance, diligence, bravery, and overcoming all difficulties; have contributed along with the entire nation to defeating the U.S. aggressors, and are beginning to restore and develop production and promote the enterprises of building and defending socialism. The localities throughout the military region are enthusiastically participating in the movement to develop production, complete the irrigation system, and improve the terrain. The face of the countryside in the provinces in the Military Region's area of operations is continually changing and developing along the lines of large-scale socialist production. From the city of Vinh and the city of Dong Hoi to the Quang Chau conduct and the Ke Go dam, from the cities to the rural areas, from the lowlands to the jungles and mountains, and from the land to the sea--everywhere there is enthusiastic labor on the great socialist construction worksite of the Vietnamese Fatherland. In that framework, the entire Military Region has begun to fulfill the mission of economic construction with new, very high requirements.

The Military Region, fully understanding the line of socialist revolution and the building of socialism all over the nation, the Party's economic construction line, the plans of the state, and the policies of economic development and

combining economics with national defense in the localities, has set forth economic construction missions and policies for the people's armed forces in the Military Region. First of all, cooperating with the localities in creating the new economic areas, creating the material-technical bases of socialism, contributing to the redistribution of the population, achieving fixed cultivation and habitation, reorganizing production, and furthering the three revolutions along the lines of large-scale socialist production in the mountain region. Second, along with the localities creating economic areas which combine forestry, agriculture, and industry and develop their effect in all three aspects: economics, politics, and national defense. Especially, to develop the strength with regard to organization of the armed forces and, along with the localities and the economic sectors, build major water conservancy projects in order to contribute to attaining a strategic goal in economic development of the entire nation at present--the grain problem. Third, utilizing a large force of troops in the production of construction materials and in construction work, contributing positively to healing the wounds of war, and resolving the problem of housing for the people and camps for the troops. Of those three missions, the creating of new economic areas is a central, long-range task. By doing a good job of carrying out that central task we are certain to contribute to causing a major transformation in the local economic, political, and social situation, speed up the process of eliminating the differences in all respects between the mountains and the lowlands and between the rural areas and the cities, and contribute to creating uniformity in all respects among the areas in all parts of the nation. That is an organic relationship which closely combines agriculture and economics and national defense, and it is also the fulfillment of the combat readiness mission in a basic, long-range, and solid manner.

In order to carry out those policies the Military Region has utilized specialized production forces which devote a certain part of their time to training and combat readiness, stipulated that all forces specializing in training and combat readiness must devote an appropriate amount of time to the production labor mission, and developed the assault roles of both the main-force troops and the local troops, militia, guerrillas, and self-defense forces on the economic construction front.

In order to create a new status and strength, and a rational distribution among the various areas, the Military Region has deployed and is deploying its forces in accordance with the stipulated formations. In the key areas, the new economic areas, and the areas which combine forestry, agriculture, and industry there will be main-force troop units of the Military Region which specialize in animal husbandry cultivation, forestry, processing, capital construction, communications and transportation, etc. Thus the units engaged in concentrated economic work in the various areas of operation have conditions for developing their strength in labor organization and management, combining mechanized and semi-mechanized facilities with manual labor, and creating a basis for endeavoring along the lines of promoting mechanization.

The provincial local troop units will become the provinces' long-range economic construction forces which will be managed by the provinces in accordance with the local economic construction policies and the army's economic construction direction. Conditions will be created for those units to become economic organizations, enterprises, and units which are managed in accordance with economic auditing, work with discipline, good techniques, and high productivity, and are oriented toward the principal local missions, especially the water conservancy projects. The localities will utilize provincial troops in a concentrated manner in constructing the key projects. They will serve as the hard core and cooperate closely with the technical forces of the water conservancy, communications, and other sectors in the province, and the militia and self-defense forces will be concentrated to develop the combined strength of the forces in constructing the key provincial projects. The fact that the completion of the Quang Chau conduit before the stipulated deadline and with high quality brought about economic effectiveness is an actuality which proves that that direction is correct and appropriate. At present the localities have used and are using their main-force units extensively in such missions.

On the path of advance to large-scale socialist production in our country the district level occupies an extremely important economic, political, and military position. Each district must become a "strong point for carrying out the three revolutions in the rural areas and become an area of operations which combines agriculture with industry, production with circulation, state ownership with collective ownership, and state investment with the self-reliance of the people." With that position and heavy responsibility, the districts must develop all great latent capabilities of all their forces, organizations, and material-technical bases in the mission of local economic construction and production development. The districts must mobilize the militia, guerrilla, and self-defense forces must become effective assault forces on that front. Quynh Luu District is a lively example of the development of the role of the militia, guerrilla, and self-defense forces in re-organizing production, redistributing labor, utilizing concentrated forces on a large scale, and completing important tasks requiring much labor on the scale of an entire district. With the military organizational style, working in accordance with the large-scale production formula, working with planning, division of labor, and organization, tight command, orders combined with the political work, mobilization, and education, and economic benefit policies, the militia units have very strongly developed their effect. Some units producing salt and specializing in constructing water conservancy projects have assured the mobilization of all local labor, assured that everyone has a job and increased income, overcome the fragmented, dispersed way of working, with some places having surplus manpower, others lacking workers, low incomes, etc. Such organization of forces has not only not hindered agricultural production while also assuring that military training achieves good results and uniform quality and constant readiness to react and do a good job of assuring local order and security, etc.

With regard to the units fulfilling training and combat readiness missions, the principal direction of production and economic construction is to produce

food according to stipulated plans and norms and self-produce construction materials to build their camps in correct accordance with the requirements. Furthermore, according to the conditions, position, nature, and mission of each unit, there must be a plan to cooperate with the locality in implementing the economic construction plan, especially planned afforestation and forest improvement. On that basis the units must create for themselves material-technical bases and the necessary corps of economic management cadres and technical cadres and workers in order to be prepared to enter into concentrated, large-scale production and oppose working in an arbitrary, dispersed manner without plans or looking ahead.

Combat readiness, force development, and economic construction are basic, extremely important present missions of the Military Region. They require that the armed forces of the Military Region undergo a strong transformation in all respects.

The cadres and men of the entire Military Region must fully understand the Party's line of socialist revolution and viewpoint of national defense by all the people and continually increase the level of socialist consciousness, socialist patriotism, and the spirit of collective mastery. We must continue to manifest the spirit of revolutionary offensive and the determined-to-fight and-win tradition, and transform revolutionary heroism in combat into revolutionary heroism in defending and building the Fatherland. At the same time, it is necessary to endeavor to basically raise the over-all level, with regard to both military science and economic science and both material science and social science, and master all types of weapons and labor tools at hand, both modern and primitive, along the lines of increasing modernity. The Military Region must urgently hold classes to train cadres and men. All units must urgently organize study in accordance with its requirements and missions. Everyone must endeavor to become new, socialist people, resolute defenders of the Fatherland, and skilled workers. The entire Military Region must give rise to a seething emulation high tide and develop the Nghe Tinh Soviet tradition and the tradition of determination to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, in order to outstandingly fulfill all missions in the new revolutionary phase.

The Military Region's organs must be perfected. There must organizational tables and cadres of meeting the requirement of leading, guiding, and organizing the Military Region's fulfillment of the combat readiness and force development mission and the economic construction mission.

The Military Region must always have close relationships with the local Party committees and administrations, and the localities must always take the initiative in establishing contact and cooperating with the troops of the Military Region, in order to work together in strengthening the spirit of socialist cooperation, assure the good fulfillment of all local cooperation, assure the good fulfillment of all local missions, and do a good job of fulfilling the missions of the Military Region. Continuing to develop the tradition of military-civilian unity, the armed forces in the Military

Region must closely cooperate with the people of the various localities and create a great strength in order to fulfill the mission.

With the support and assistance of the people, the sectors, and the local echelons, and with the initial accomplishments and experiences, the Military Region, under the light of the Resolution of the 4th Party Congress, is certain to develop its strength and gloriously fulfill all missions.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

STATUS OF CUU LONG PROVINCE ARMED FORCES DISCUSSED

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No. 12, Dec 76 pp 34-41

[Article by Senior Colonels Bui Xuan Nho and Hoang Ha: "The New Transformation and Determination of the Armed Forces of Cuu Long Province"]

[Text] The present Cuu Long Province was formed by combining the former Vinh Long and Tra Vinh provinces. It is a highly populated province (more than 1.3 million people, including more than 500,000 workers), is a fertile province, and was one of the strong resistance war bases of the Mekong River Delta during the war years.

Lying between two large rivers, the Tien Giang and Hau Giang, Cuu Long Province has very fertile soil and very favorable weather, so the paddies, fields, and gardens are good the year round. Cultivation and animal husbandry are both developed, with the growing of rice being a strength. Cuu Long Province has long been major rice basket of the Mekong Delta. The laboring people there are very diligent and creative, but have been downtrodden by poverty for countless generations. The feudal landlords and colonial imperialists suppressed and exploited them very fiercely. For that very reason the struggle against aggression, suppression, and exploitation of the people of Cuu Long Province, under the leadership of the Party, arose very early and developed very strongly. Vinh Long had a rather strong revolutionary struggle movement beginning in 1940. Tra Vinh was one of the leading flags of the guerrilla war in the South during the anti-French and anti-U.S. resistance wars. In the general offensive and uprising of Tet of 1968, Vinh Long was a province in which the people controlled the cities for a longer time than in any

province in the Mekong Delta. In the general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975 Tra Vinh was the first province in the Mekong Delta to liberate its cities, at the same time that Saigon was liberated. Many districts and townships in Cuu Long Province had very strong "all the people attack the enemy" movements, the model examples of which were Tam Binh District, Can Long District, Ngai Tu Township, and Nhi Long Township. Many cadres and men became Heroes of the People's Armed Forces, outstanding examples of whom were comrades Ut Tich, To Thi Huynh, and Luu Van Viet.

Before the complete victory the soldiers and people of Cuu Long had to experience 30 years the soldiers and people in the province were closely united, closely supported one another, and resolutely and persistently fought to defend the home area.

Immediately after the complete liberation of the South the armed forces of Cuu Long Province, under the leadership of the Party, continued to manifest revolutionary qualities and traditions and a spirit of revolutionary offensive, positively participated in the all-round struggle of the people in the new revolutionary phase, persistently and continually mopped up the enemy troop remnants, defended and consolidated the newly liberated area, rectified and perfected the concentrated troop units, developed and consolidated the militia and self-defense forces while promptly beginning the production labor mission, etc. After the resolutions of the Political Bureau regarding the military missions and the army's economic construction mission, and the instructions and resolutions of the Central Military Party Committee regarding the army's fulfillment of the missions of fighting to defend the Fatherland and developing the economy and the nation, the armed forces of the entire province, under the direct leadership of the Executive Committee of the Party organization of Cuu Long Province and the guidance of the Military Region 9 Party Committee, there was begun the comprehensive organization and fulfillment of both missions assigned by the Party, and there began to be achieved a number of important accomplishments.

After forcing more than 60,000 puppet officers and enlisted men to report, register, and undergo the educational reform of the revolution, the Cuu Long armed forces, along with the other forces in the province, continued to mop up the enemy troop remnants. With the formula of continually launching concentrated mopping up operations at the crucial times and in the strategic areas, by the combined forces of the military and security units, the political forces, the forces of the sectors, and

the broad popular masses, under the concentrated, united leadership of the Party committees from the provincial level to the base level, the soldiers and people of Cuu Long won a great victory on that front. They captured 6,000 obstinate enemy personnel who had hidden out and opposed the revolution, including many bullies and ringleaders who owed many blood debts to the people. They smashed armed counterrevolutionary organizations, stopped many of their plots to create disturbances, and deservedly punished acts of disturbance and sabotage. Therefore, they were able to maintain political security and social order, defend the revolutionary accomplishments that had just been won, defend the revolutionary administration, assure the safety of the Party and state organs during major holidays, especially during the elections to elect a National Assembly for the entire nation, defend the lives and property of the people, and create conditions for the people to gradually stabilize their living conditions and increase production.

The armed forces of the entire province quickly began and organized the fulfillment of the missions of production labor, economic construction, and developing the home area. The concentrated units of the province reclaimed wasteland, in areas that had never been developed, in order to construct two medium-scale state farms, in combination with the defensive and combat readiness mission. The 19-5 State Farm cleared 100 hectares and planted rice, sugarcane, and cassava. In the future it may be developed into 200 or 300 hectares, grow staple food crops, and raise between 200,000 and 300,000 hogs and between 1 million and 2 million fresh-water fish. The Thong Nhat State Farm reclaimed 1,700 hectares -- which in the near future can be increased to 3,000 or 4,000 hectares -- and is raising brackish water shrimp and fish and making salt, meeting the requirements of the province and exporting frozen shrimp. An ocean fishing fleet, a road-building unit, etc., to simultaneously do economic work and serve the requirements of national defense, are now being formed. A medium-scale irrigation project between 40 and 50 kilometers long to serve both the economy and national defense in the province will also be undertaken by the armed forces of the entire province, which will serve as assault forces. It will be the first relatively large-scale collective labor project in the province and will directly serve the increasing of agricultural production and the improvement of the people's living conditions in a large scale area, and will also be an actual school for educating and training troops, militia, and self-defense forces throughout the province. The units concentrated in all 12 districts also reclaimed wasteland and formed small state farms -- each of which has 30 or so hectares and may be expanded to 40 or 50 hectares -- which

have begun to grow grain and engage in animal husbandry, The militia and guerrillas in many hamlets and townships, in addition to production by families, have also been organized into collective production units working on public fields assigned by the People's Committees to create additional material wealth, create higher productivity in the localities, and provide collective activities for and educate and train the militia and guerrillas. The self-defense and combat self-defense units in many wards have been able to study handicraft trades, have been organized into collective production units specializing in carpentry, tailoring, etc., and have both contributed to providing jobs for the people and created additional favorable conditions for fulfilling the mission of defending the streets. The armed forces in the province have also been assigned the mission of, along with the sectors and people, building a number of provincial enterprises. All of the above production labor missions have been carried out under the leadership of the provincial Party committee and the local Party committees, in accordance with plans drafted by the people's committees at the various echelons and with the assistance of the sectors and people. Although the production labor accomplishments of the Cuu Long armed forces are not yet great they have opened up good prospects, clearly pointed out the correct direction of the economic construction mission and created important conditions for advancing to the attainment of greater accomplishments in future years.

In order to fulfill the mission of mopping up the enemy troop remnants and being prepared to fight to defend the home area and the mission of production labor and economic development, as well as the mission of building increasingly strong and solid provincial armed forces, the Cuu Long armed forces have rectified and consolidated to an important degree the concentrated troop units of the province and districts as well as the militia and self-defense forces in the hamlets, townships, and wards. The concentrated provincial and district units have been consolidated with regard to both thought and organization, have been trained and educated both politically and militarily, and have received education regarding the revolutionary situation and mission, the missions of the army, the common missions of the province, and the specific missions of each unit. They received concentrated training in regulations, discipline, close-order drill, and operational procedures in the localities, in order to gradually advance all aspects of work, study, and combat preparedness to an increasingly more regular status. Especially, study regarding the instructions and resolutions of the Party enabled the cadres and men to fully understand the lines, policies, and policies

of the Party and the missions of our army in the new phase. On that basis it was possible to mobilize the positiveness and creativity of large numbers of cadres and men, especially the cadres, Party members, and Youth Group members, and repel the phenomena of negativism and tardiness in the units. Therefore, during the recent period all units did a good job of fulfilling both the combat readiness mission and the production labor and economic construction mission. The militia and self-defense forces, especially the guerrilla and combat self-defense units, were consolidated and their quality was improved to an important degree. Nearly all of the hamlets and townships have militia forces and nearly all of the wards have self-defense forces. Those forces have endeavored and are endeavoring to become reliable and sharp tools of the revolutionary administrations at the base level and the assault forces in mopping up the enemy troop remnants and suppressing the active counterrevolutionaries, and are advancing step-by-step to becoming the hard-core forces for the collective, socialist way of livelihood in each locality. The Cuu Long armed forces have paid special attention to training and cultivating cadres. The province has opened schools to train township unit cadres, schools to give elementary and advanced training to noncommissioned officers, and supplementary education schools for cadres, while continually organizing conferences to discuss experiences regarding all aspects of the work in order to constantly improve the ability of the district unit cadres and the organ cadres, as well as selecting many cadres to study in schools of the Military Region and the Ministry, to study both political and military subjects, to study both the local military work and the contents of developing a regular, modern People's Army, etc.

The initial accomplishments attained by the Cuu Long armed forces during a period of more than a year prove clearly that the resolutions of the Political Bureau and the Central Military Party Committee regarding the army's missions of combat readiness to defend the Fatherland and developing the economy and the nation are entirely correct and have illuminated the way for all activities of the armed forces of Cuu Long Province. The victory that has been won also clearly shows the level of revolutionary consciousness and rich revolutionary capabilities of the soldiers and people in the province and of the cadres and men of the Cuu Long armed forces, in order to advance to the attainment of even greater results in both missions assigned by the Party.

The armed forces of Cuu Long Province are very enthusiastic because for more than a year they have made many all-out efforts and have overcome many difficulties, have carried out both basic missions of the army relatively comprehensively, have begun to go in the right direction and achieve good results, and have achieved a foundation for fulfilling all missions and tasks during the coming years.

However, in view of the very demanding and very urgent requirements of the task of building and developing socialism in the sphere of the entire nation in general and in the sphere of the province specifically, and in view of the many new problems that have been posed for both the mission of readiness to fight to defend the nation and the home area and the mission of developing the economy and developing the locality, we believe that only if we must make even greater efforts if we are to fulfill both missions assigned by the Party and the state.

Something we think about night and day is how to, with the existing armed forces and with numbers that are not great and quality that is not yet truly good, with material-technical bases that are still limited, with an ability level which, although it has been raised, still includes many deficiencies, and in view of the situation of the reactionaries always seeking ways to cause trouble and sabotage, closely combine the good fulfillment of the mission of readiness to fight to strongly defend the locality and the mission of economic construction, produce much material wealth, contribute effectively to, along with the people, rapidly developing the province and advancing on the path of large-scale socialist production, and meeting the aspirations of the Party Central Committee and of the people of the entire province. If that is to be achieved, during the coming year there will be various key problems which we must concentrate on resolving well.

1. Continue to educate, mobilize, and organize the armed forces and, along with the Party organs, administrations, and mass associations, enable all people in the province, especially the various categories of young men and women, to be deeply imbued with the basic viewpoints of the Party of all the people developing the nation and defending the Fatherland, the entire army defending the Fatherland and developing the nation, and combining the military obligation with the labor obligation. According to those viewpoints, the people of the entire province must fulfill their obligations of working to develop the locality while also fulfilling their obligation to defend the province and contributing to developing and defending the Fatherland. All armed forces in the

province must do a good job of fulfilling the mission of readiness to fight to defend the locality while also doing a good job of fulfilling the obligation of economic development and building a rich, strong home area. Having studied the recent resolutions and instructions of the Party Central Committee, the Political Bureau, and the Central Military Party Committee and having been familiar with the good points and deficiencies of the local work for more than a year, we are very enthusiastic over the accomplishments that have been attained and are also aware of our shortcomings, and realize even more clearly that the lines, policies, and missions set forth by the Party for the new revolutionary phase are very correct and creative.

Based on the actual experience we have accumulated we are very confident that the plans for developing the local armed forces and the plans for defense, combat readiness, and assuring social order and security, as well as the economic projects that have begun to take form and the good harvests, as well as the contemplated economic projects. Although we will experience many difficulties we are certain to carry them out on an increasingly larger scale and with increasingly better results and enable Cuu Long to, in the near future, truly become a strategic unit strong both economically and militarily and capable of, along with the provinces all over the nation, striving for the complete victory of socialism.

2. Develop the revolutionary offensive to a high degree among the armed forces of the entire province, from the local troops to the militia and self-defense forces, from schools to organs, from the units now fulfilling missions of development, training, and readiness to fight to defend the key areas to the units now fulfilling production labor missions at the state farms and the production units, and resolutely overcome all manifestations of becoming self-satisfied and slowing down, all phenomena of arbitrary liberality, and all acts which violate state laws and army discipline. We must cause all units and all cadres and men to resolutely accept missions full of difficulty and hardship, not to hesitate, not to become upset, and to concentrate to a high degree on outstanding fulfilling the two missions of our army in the new phase of the revolution. Specifically:

In the units which are now fulfilling the mission of being prepared to fight to defend the locality, we must go all-out to enable all cadres and men to continually manifest revolutionary vigilance, take the initiative, and positively cooperate with the other local forces in wiping out or

or arresting all counterrevolutionaries and smashing all plots to create disturbances. There must be continually close guidance of the task of mopping up the enemy. We must continue to participate in consolidating the base-level administrations, especially the consolidation of the mass armed forces. Furthermore, we must strengthen the defense, patrolling, and guarding tasks, especially in the strategic areas.

With regard to all units, especially the units which participate directly in the all-round struggle to completely fulfill the remaining missions of the people's democratic national revolution and of carrying out socialist reform, we must enable the troops to fully understand the viewpoints and policies of the Party in eliminating the oppressing classes and being prepared to smash all acts of opposition and sabotage. At the same time, we must enable our cadres and men to always stand firmly on the standpoints of the working class and distinguish clearly and definitively between labor and exploitation, between socialism, capitalism, and neocolonialism, and between the enemy and ourselves, thus causing everyone not to be vague about class and not cover up for, support, or sympathize with bad deeds and bad people, wicked people who harm the revolution.

In all units, including those fulfilling combat readiness missions as well as those fulfilling economic construction missions, we must strengthen training, manage the troops in all respects, increase their consciousness of organization and discipline, rapidly overcome negative phenomena, lack of vigilance, lack of positiveness, undisciplined freedom, corruption and waste, and laxity in managing material-technical bases, and enable all units and organs to be developed with increasing tight professional standards, which work, study, and organize activities in correct accordance with the stipulations of the army's orders, regulations, and systems.

In the units now engaging principally in production labor, especially in the places with hardships and difficulties, and with deficient material conditions, we must be determined to, along with their members, find ways to overcome all obstacles, rely on the people and on the cadres and men at the base level, find effective measures, not rely excessively on others or await the upper echelon, resolutely carry out the work in correct accordance with the predetermined production plans, and labor selflessly, with discipline, with good techniques, and with high productivity.

The mission of readiness to fight to defend the locality, as well as the production labor and economic construction mission, of the armed forces of Cuu Long Province during future months and years will continue to be very difficult, and they will meet many challenges. That demands that we not be self-satisfied with the things we have done, but advance further and further, if we are to resolve the many problems that are being posed for every individual and every unit.

3. Being prepared to fight to stoutly defend the province and engaging in production labor to rebuild the home area so that it is "more than 10 times" richer and more attractive than it is today, along the lines of socialism, is a great undertaking which not only demands that the soldiers and people in Cuu Long Province have a strong revolutionary spirit and strong struggle will, but also demands that all of us have a new levels of ability and knowledge -- a level of social organization and management and economic management, a level of culture, science, and technology, and ability to continue to promote the enterprise of advancing the army to a regular, modern status. Those very demanding requirements are now in contradiction with the levels of our cadres and men, which are limited in many ways, especially with regard to culture and modern military science and technology and to economic management. Therefore, during coming years, in order to do a good job of fulfilling both missions of the army a very urgent problem that has been posed is that we must endeavor to study by all means: study in schools, study on the job, long-term study, short-term study, study in central-level schools, military region schools, and provincial schools, study of one another, studying the state organs and the economic sectors, and studying the popular masses. We regard that as a very great and difficult mission which must be fulfilled urgently. We must not be tardy. We will resolutely create all conditions to study and cultivate and we must, within a relatively brief period of time, catch up with the over-all level of the cadres of the entire army.

4. In order to do a good job of fulfilling the two basic missions of our army in the present situation, a matter of decisive importance and also a matter of principle, is that the people's armed forces in Cuu Long Province are determined to always clearly understand the Party's leadership, strictly obey the centralized and unified leadership of the Executive Committee of the provincial Party organization and the guidance of the Party committee of Military Region 9, and closely unite and cooperate with the local administrative organs, mass associations, and people.

Our experiences here during the years of fierce warfare, during favorable periods as well as during difficult periods, when the enemy was fiercely attacking and murdering and the revolutionary bases were suffering serious losses, as well as when the revolutionary movement became strong and there were resounding victories, because we had solidarity and unanimity we always believed in and obeyed the leadership of the Executive Committee of the provincial Party organization and of the Party committee of the Military Region, and always knew how to reply on the people and coordinate with the people in combat, no matter what the difficulties were we could overcome them, no matter how arduous a mission was we could fulfill it, and no matter how cruel, wicked, or brutal the enemy was we could defeat them.

Today, in peacetime, after a period of little more than a year our armed forces have begun to fulfill both of the principal missions, also because we have achieved solidarity with the various sectors and echelons, have full confidence in and obey the leadership of the provincial Party committee and the guidance of the Party committee of the Military Region, and know how to win the assistance of the people. We are very pleased that at present, in both the mission of readiness to fight to defend the locality and the economic construction mission the Cuu Long armed forces have the full confidence of the provincial Party committee, which has assigned to the units the task of constructing many important economic projects. The Executive Committee of the Party organization and the Provincial People's Committee have instructed the organs and the national economic sectors in the province to give us their all-out assistance regarding planning, capital, material-technical facilities, and experience. That is an extremely important factor in helping us advance to the fulfillment of both the combat readiness mission and the economic construction mission. We are determined to maintain and develop that precious tradition of solidarity in the units and in relations with the people, cause the soldiers and people of the entire nation to always be united, and create the greatest possible strength with which to gloriously fulfill the mission of building and defending the province, so that it may become a province that is rich economically, strong with regard to national defense, and worthy of the confidence of the Party and of the people of the entire province.

Countless comrades and people heroically sacrificed their lives to win and defend that resolute, unyielding piece of land. In order to be worthy of those who have died, the cadres and men in the Cuu Long armed forces of today, no matter what age group, are determined to go all-out

no matter of what age group, are determined to go all-out in, along with all the people, defending Cuu Long Province and developing it into one of the rich and strong provinces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We are very pleased and proud over the glorious tradition of our home area and of the glorious Vietnam Fatherland, and are very enthusiastic over having the greatest advantages ever, over the extremely bright prospects of our beloved country and home area, which are changing every day and every hour.

Now, like the entire Party, the entire population, and the entire army all over the nation and the people throughout the province, all cadres and men of the Cuu Long armed forces are looking toward the 4th Party Congress with boundless pride, confidence, and enthusiasm. All cadres and men must be determined to achieve outstanding new feats of arms to offer to our beloved Party during these very historic days. At the same time, we are prepared with regard to will, energy, and action to do a good job of fulfilling any mission anywhere and contribute to, along with the people of the entire nation, advancing behind the glorious banner of the Party and the great Uncle Ho, transform the Resolution of the 4th Party Congress into reality, and successfully build and stalwartly defend our beloved and powerful socialist Vietnamese Fatherland.

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MISSIONS OF HA NAM NINH ARMED FORCES DISCUSSED

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp42-46, 84

/Article by Colonel Tran Binh: "On the Fulfillment of the Two Missions of the Ha Nam Ninh Armed Forces"/

/Text/ Immediately after the province was formed the Ha Nam Ninh Party Executive Committee met and issued a resolution regarding the local political mission in the new period. At the beginning of spring, 1976, Ha Nam Ninh had the honor of being visited by comrade Le Duan, First Secretary of the Party Central Committee, who gave encouragement and assigned mission. The Ha Nam Ninh Party Committee promised the Party Central Committee that "The entire Party organization, along with the people and armed forces of Ha Nam Ninh, pledges that it will carry out as well as possible the resolutions of the Party Central Committee regarding the revolutionary missions in the new phase and the resolutions of the Political Bureau regarding the military mission and the army's economic construction mission. We will develop the new position and strength of Ha Nam Ninh Province since its formation in order to do a good job of reorganizing production, enter early and rapidly into the mission of mechanizing agriculture, endeavor to develop each district in the province into a rich and strong agricultural-industrial district and Ha Nam Ninh into a rich and strong industrial-agricultural province, combine the local economy with the central economy, combine economics with national defense, and combine labor to develop the economy, develop the locality, and develop the nation with readiness to fight to defend the locality and the nation."

Along these lines, the conference of the Standing Committee of the Ha Nam Ninh Party Committee carefully analyzed the characteristics and capabilities of the province in order to determine the political mission and direction of advance of the local armed forces in the new situation.

With a population of more than 2.6 million, Ha Nam Ninh is a large province of our unified, socialist Vietnam. The province has an area of 3,522 square kilometers, of which more than 201,000 hectares are cultivated land. It consists of three clearly defined natural economic areas: the lowlands, the hilly and mountainous area, and the sea. The three areas can supplement and support one another, and create for Ha Nam Ninh Province a well-rounded, rich economy. Ha Nam Ninh, with a vast, fertile land area and rich natural resources, also has a plentiful labor force of nearly 1 million people of working age. The material-technical bases that have been built during the past few years have created the initial basis for the entire province to assimilate mechanization and advance to large-scale socialist production. The production relationships have been continually consolidated and perfected. The local armed forces came of age during two resistance wars. The youth forces have been tested and forged. The Party organization has a tradition of solidarity, has experience in leadership, and has strong fighting force. The leadership and guidance capability of the Party organizations at the various levels and the vanguard, exemplary role of the cadres and Party members have clearly taken a step forward. The people's administrations at the various levels have been continually consolidated in all respects and are effectively developing their social management and economic management roles in peacetime. The right of collective mastership of the laboring people has been increasingly stressed in economics, politics, culture, society, production, life, and national defense. The worker-peasant solidarity bloc has been increasingly expanded and consolidated.

As is true with regard to many other large provinces throughout the nation, Ha Nam Ninh is a very important and comprehensive planning and budgeting echelon, a strategic area of operations with ample conditions for combining industry and agriculture, the central economy with the local economy, and economics with national defense. The situation and characteristics of Ha Nam Ninh also show its very important position with regard to national defense in the enterprise of consolidating the national defense of the entire nation. That situation and those characteristics also clearly show that Ha Nam Ninh has very great potential.

That potential is made up of combined factors which create capability and strength so that Ha Nam Ninh can gradually advance to the mechanization of agriculture and successfully build socialism, and is a basis for strongly consolidating national defense at the base level in order to strongly consolidate the local national defense forces and enable the combat readiness level and all aspects of the province's military work to take new developmental steps.

On the basis of the situation, characteristics, position, capability, and economic and military missions of the province and of fully understanding the resolutions of the Party Central Committee and the Central Military Party Committee, the Party Committee of Ha Nam Ninh delineated directions and the military and economic missions of the local armed forces in the new phase of the revolution.

With regard to the mission of readiness to fight to defend the Fatherland and the locality, the Provincial Party Committee confirmed that while concentrating on guiding the fulfillment of the central missions -- economic construction and cultural development -- the Party committee echelons and administrations at the various levels must continue to pay all-out attention to fulfilling the military missions, consolidating national defense, and being prepared to fight, maintaining local political security, and defending the Fatherland. That is a key political mission of the local Party organization and people. The Party committee echelons must closely guide the local military organs at the various levels in urgently creating basic guidelines regarding local defense and plans to carry out that task. On the basis of that method the military organs at the various echelons, the local troop units, and the militia and self-defense units must decide upon specific plans and measures for developing forces, consolidating the rear area, closely combining national defense with the economy, and combat readiness and the preservation of security with production labor.

The local troops have the mission of readiness to fight and preserve security on the scale of the entire province, but there must also be plans to be prepared to be mobile in order to coordinate in operations with main-force troops when necessary. The militia and self-defense forces, along with the public security forces, must do a good job of preserving security and being combat-ready at the base level, while always being prepared in all ways to move to fulfill missions when so ordered.

At present, the province as well as the districts and the townships, enterprises, and construction sites must guide the drafting of good combat readiness and security preservation plans for the immediate future, while preparing to do a good job of fulfilling long-range plans to defend the locality. In that task we must quickly draft and perfect plans to organize and utilize local armed forces and public security forces and stoutly defend the strategic areas of operation and the important economic, military, political, cultural, and social positions and installations. On the basis of the programs that are drafted the various echelons and units must have plans to organize training and maneuvers in each area in order to gain experience, continually improve the ability of the leadership and command echelons, strengthen consciousness of revolutionary vigilance and combat operation capability, and serve the combat operations of the armed forces and people of the province.

With regard to the production labor, economic construction, national development, and local development missions, the Provincial Party Committee determined that the Party committee echelons and administrations from the provincial level to the units and bases must firmly control and tightly guide the mobilization of the organs, regular troop units, and militia and self-defense units in the economic construction mission.

The local military organs at the various echelons have the mission of serving as staffs to help the Party committee echelons and administrations do a good job of guiding that task, and also have the mission of directly commanding, organizing, and managing the local armed forces units so that they may fulfill all economic missions and plans assigned them.

The local troops and the mass armed forces at the base level must work in accordance with the over-all economic directions, missions, and plans of the province and of the central level. In addition to fulfilling the economic construction missions assigned them, such as water conservancy, road building, the building of dikes to extend shorelines, expanding the cultivated area, etc., the local troops and the militia and self-defense forces will, along with the entire Party and the entire population, positively participate in two major campaigns of the province -- the "campaign for the people to develop new economic areas" and the "campaign for workers and cadres to go to the rural areas to work with the peasants in achieving the mechanization of agriculture."

The local troops are concentrated armed forces of the province which have the mission of undertaking the key tasks and projects, with complicated technical requirements and important significances and effect with regard to economics, culture, and national defense in the locality.

The militia and self-defense forces are production and combat forces at the base level which must contribute positively and directly to reorganizing production and improving economic management, while also developing their organized and disciplined strength to fulfill their role as the hard-core assault forces in production at the base level. Every day, each cadre and enlisted man must endeavor to do a good job of attaining the workday norm and set a good example with regard to labor discipline and the improvement of techniques in all activities and in production labor in the cooperatives. According to the seasonal schedule and each requirement of the production mission, the province, district, or base-level unit must organize and use militia and self-defense forces on a concentrated, large scale to rapidly and definitively resolve a number of problems in order to create favorable conditions for the development of the local economy. In the immediate future we must concentrate forces on the water conservancy mission in order to rapidly complete the irrigation systems in each district and in the province as a whole.

The above two missions are intimately related and are two major missions of the local armed forces of Ha Nam Ninh during the new period. The people's armed forces all over the nation are always prepared to fight to defend the Fatherland, while also positively engaging in production labor in order to, along with the entire population, build a rich and strong Fatherland. The local armed forces of Ha Nam Ninh must at the same do a good job of fulfilling both the mission of readiness to fight to defend the locality and the mission of laboring to develop the economy and develop the locality.

In order to fulfill both of those very difficult, very glorious missions the local military organs at the various levels and the local armed forces of Ha Nam Ninh must undergo a strong transformation with regard to consciousness, thought, organization, and ability.

Under the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, the local military organs at the various levels have coordinated closely with the organs, sectors, and circles in carrying out political-ideological education campaigns and causing the cadres and men throughout the province

to have correct awareness of the combat readiness mission and the economic construction mission, of the obligation of defending the Fatherland and of the labor obligation, and of the policy of combining the military obligation with the labor obligation. On that basis, everyone has been encouraged to manifest revolutionary heroism and the spirit of collective mastership, and heighten their consciousness of their responsibility and sentiment with regard to the missions of defending and developing a rich, strong locality.

In addition to creating correct perception and thought, we have a plan for perfecting the military organs at the various levels and developing comprehensively strong local troops, militia units, and self-defense units in order to organize the good implementation of the resolutions of the Provincial Party Committee and of the Central Military Party Committee.

During the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation the military organs at the various levels fulfilled their function of being staffs for the Party committee echelons with regard to military matters, guided the people's war movement, and commanded the local troops in combat in serving victorious combat. Today, the local military organs at the various levels must be further perfected in order to fulfill the mission of guiding and commanding the local armed forces in fulfilling both basic missions in the new phase of the revolution.

With regard to the provincial echelon, we have a plan to perfect and consolidate it with regard to organization and improve the ability of the cadres and organs so that they may fulfill by all means their function of giving all-round guidance to the local military missions and tasks and all activities of the local military forces in the strategic area of operations of a large province. An outstanding problem at present in our province is that we must urgently strengthen the corps of military cadres comprehensively, basically, systematically, and stably. Cadres at all echelons must endeavor to become military cadres with solid political viewpoints and standpoints, who are deeply imbued with the line of socialist revolution and military line of the Party, have a high military science and technology level, and have operational command ability that is appropriate to the new development of the war to defend the Fatherland. At the same time, the cadres must fully understand the Party's line of economic construction, have profound knowledge of economics and production techniques, and be capable of guiding and commanding the armed forces in the good fulfillment of their economic construction missions along the lines of large-

scale socialist production. The cadres directly guiding and commanding the local troop units specializing in economic work must be cadres who are capable of skillfully organizing, managing, and coordinating troops engaged in production.

The district plays an especially important role with regard to economics and national defense in the enterprise of building and defending socialism in our country. Only if the districts are strong can the province be strong. Therefore, in perfecting the district echelon so that it may be appropriate to advancing the districts to large-scale socialist production, we have been concerned with perfecting the district-level military organs. The perfecting of the district echelon in Ha Nam Ninh has been carried out with regard to both thought and organization and we have gone all-out to assure that the district echelon has sufficient capability to guide and command the local armed forces in doing a good job of fulfilling both the military mission and the economic mission in the new period. The organizational apparatus is closely related to the corps of cadres. Only with strong organization and effective leadership can we develop the effect and improve the quality of cadres. And vice versa, if there are strong cadres the organizations will be even stronger. Therefore, we have the policy of basing ourselves on the over-all political and military missions of the province and the specific missions of the district during the new period in organizing and perfecting the apparatus and building, strengthening, and arranging the corps of cadres. The cadre organizational apparatus and corps must be streamlined, strong, and sufficiently strong to comprehensively guide and command both the local military work and the economic construction mission in the sphere of the entire district. Strengthening and improving the quality of operational guidance and command, and of organizing, managing, and coordinating the militia and self-defense forces in doing economic work, and improving work styles and command and work methods, are important contents in order to increase the combativeness of the provincial military organs in the new situation.

With regard to the local troops we have a plan to consolidate them with regard to both thought and organization and with regard to the political, military, rear area, economic, and technical aspects. Due to the requirements of the new situation and missions the local troop units of the province are all fulfilling production labor missions, so an important and urgent matter at the present time is to enable them to fulfill the new missions in a timely manner. No matter what the unit, a concentrated

regiment or an independent battalion or company, all of them must be developed along the lines of professionalism and modernity, and of preserving their nature as military organizations while also being appropriate to the missions of units specializing in economic construction.

With regard to the militia and self-defense forces, we have a plan to organize and train them so that they may be equal to the new economic and national defense requirements and missions of the districts, townships, enterprises, etc. An important problem at present is to concentrate on doing a good job of improving the organization of the militia and self-defense forces so that they may be equal to the combat readiness requirements and missions in the new situation, to the changes brought about by the redistribution of the population and the new division of labor, to the scale of production development and to the formation of new enterprises, construction sites, new economic areas, concentrated population clusters in the mountain and coastal regions, etc., created by the reorganization of production and the mechanization of agriculture. The good performance of the above tasks will create a new deployment of forces in the areas of operation of the province and of the districts, and enable the militia and self-defense forces to have new conditions for fulfilling the mission of protecting production and the locality, and contributing to the development of regular, modern, powerful people's armed forces, while also playing the role of being the hard-core assault forces on the production front at the base level and in the sphere of the entire district.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

NAVAL FORCES COMBINE COMBAT READINESS WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp 47-53

[Article by Lieutenant Colonels Bui Huy Mat and Tran Van Luat: "Naval Forces of Coastal Area Closely Combine Combat Readiness with Economic Construction"]

[Text] Under the light of the resolutions of the Political Bureau and the Central Military Party Committee regarding our army's mission of readiness to fight and defend the Fatherland and the mission of production labor, economic development, and national development, and the resolution of the armed forces branch Party committee regarding the naval forces' fulfillment of those two missions, the units of coastal area X have positively and urgently simultaneously carried out the two missions and have attained initial results. In fact, the cadres and men in the area realize more and more clearly realized that that policy of the Party is very correct and creative, and is very much in accord with the aspirations, conditions, and capabilities of the naval forces. The units have begun to gain experiences in combining the fulfillment of the two missions.

Closely combining readiness to fight to strongly defend the rivers and seas of the Fatherland with production labor, the exploitation of marine products, and contributing to increasing the catching of fish for the national economy, is an essential requirement and also an actual capability of the naval forces of coastal area X.

The naval forces of today, units which operate at sea and ashore, not only have the very important mission of having the strongly defend the river mouths, inlets, sea islands, and immense seas of the Fatherland, but also have the very important obligation of having to catch many fish, catch and process many marine products, contribute positively to improve the living conditions of the people and the troops, and contribute to building and developing our country's ocean fishing sector. In the past, during the war, all activities of the naval forces were concentrated on the combat missions, and some forces participated in catching ocean fish and in transporting cargo. Today, under the circumstances of the entire nation being at peace and the entire army prepared to fight to defend the Fatherland and developing the economy and the nation, of course the naval forces must not only simultaneously fulfill the two above-mentioned missions, but also, by means of

fulfilling those two missions, building and forging the naval forces so that they may become increasingly mature and strong.

Readiness to fight at sea and catching ocean fish, although two different missions with different requirements, are both activities at sea, so there are many favorable conditions for combining the fulfillment of the two missions, and therefore there are many requirements with regard to developing and forging people and organizations which are identical or nearly identical.

In order to catch many ocean fish, of course there must be understanding of ocean fishing techniques, just as in winning victory at sea. But whether operating on fishing ships or on warships, each cadre and sailor must have basic knowledge of naval science and technology, navigation, communications, seamanship, international maritime law, etc., and must forebear and overcome waves and wind from a low level to a high level. Therefore, the process of carrying out missions aboard fishing ships is a process of forging the most important conditions of naval cadres and men and preparing to serve combat missions at sea when necessary. At the same time, when fulfilling the mission of patrolling and defending the sea area, the cadres and sailors have conditions for rapidly shifting over to catching ocean fish when required by the economic construction mission. In peacetime the naval forces fulfill both a combat preparedness mission and an economic mission, especially the catching of fish, which is one of the best methods, one which is both "very military" and "very Economic," of developing forces and units. The troops catch much fish and increase the material wealth of society, and contribute to improving the living conditions of the people and the army, while being greatly forged and tested with regard to navigation, waves, and wind, as well as sea-going techniques. Furthermore, the more ocean fishing ships there are and the greater the areas in which they operate, the greater the capabilities of the fishing fleet to participate in defending the sea areas. Therefore, the greater are the conditions for reducing the utilization time and number of combat fishing ships fulfilling patrol missions and for economizing on fuel, protecting and preserving ships and boats, and doing a better job of serving the combat readiness mission. With regard to all sailors, after fulfilling their military obligations in the armed forces and returning to their localities or transferring to the marine products sector, those comrades will not only be the hard-core members of the self-defense and combat self-defense forces on the state-owned fishing ships and boats and the sea transportation ships, will also become members and workers, who are technically trained and experienced in ocean fishing, of the cooperatives and the state fishing sector.

Clearly realizing that the policy of having the naval forces carry out simultaneously and combining closely the mission of readiness to fight to defend the sea area and the Fatherland and the mission of production labor, exploiting marine products, and contributing to developing the nation is very correct, the cadres and sailors of coastal area X are even more confident in the accurate path of advance of the entire area as well as of each unit, and are continually and strongly manifesting a spirit of revolutionary offensive in fulfilling each mission as well as in combining the fulfillment of the two missions.

In view of the difficulties of the initial period of the fulfillment of the two missions, especially the mission of exploiting marine products and catching fish, the cadres and men of the units fulfilling missions at sea as well as missions ashore think and act in a positive manner: they do not sit around waiting, let others do the work, or remain passive when encountering difficulties, but take the initiative and are creative. On the basis of the existing capabilities of coastal area X with regard to people and facilities, the units rapidly, comprehensively, and selectively fulfilled both missions. With regard to the combat readiness mission the units concentrated on improving their combat strength and their level of combat readiness in the principal directions. With regard to the economic construction mission they concentrated all efforts on the mission of exploiting marine products, making fishing the principal content. Since there were as yet no forces specializing in the exploitation of marine products--the central concern of which is fishing--we mobilized many cadres and men from the units in the area and immediately organized ocean fishing units and supply, refrigeration, salting, processing, and other elements. Since we as yet had no knowledge of fishing, we organized vocational training while at the same time sending many men to the local installations and to go to sea on the people's fishing ships and boats to work with the people and study fishing techniques and experiences. Since we did not yet have fishing ships and boats, we promptly organized and put in order the workshops and stations in the area, encourages the men to improve and repair damaged enemy warships for use as fishing ships, etc.

Due to the specific positions and functions of the different units, the units in the area usually have different principal missions. But all revolve around the two missions and combine the fulfillment of the two missions. One of the manifestations of the revolutionary offensive spirit of the units is the resolute and clever combining of the good fulfillment of both missions. While implementing their principal mission--fishing--the ocean fishing units also fulfill their mission of observing, patrolling, and long-range defense of the sea area. On the other hand, the naval units which have the principal mission of combat preparedness and are always in a status of readiness to cope with all situations of the mission of defending the sea area, at the same time organize on-the-spot fishing so long as doing so does not effect their combat readiness. The elements the principal mission of which is readiness to fight on the coast select locations, build embankments, and create areas for raising brackish water fish and shrimp. The elements fulfilling the mission of readiness to fight in mountainous areas organize the on-the-spot raising of water buffaloes and cattle. The units defending sea islands simultaneously develop marine products and exploit forestry products while also developing cultivation and animal husbandry in order to gradually reduce supplies from the mainland. The training schools have the principal mission of comprehensively educating and cultivating recruits comprehensively in order to raise their technical levels to serve both the combat-at-sea mission and the ocean fishing mission, but also pay attention to raising breeding hogs to supply to the units throughout the entire area. While repairing small fishing ships and boats for the units and repairing ships and boats for the state and the people, the workshops and stations have endeavored to make use of all their conditions and capabilities to produce additional simple

agricultural implements to serve the new economic areas. The staff, political, rear service, and technical organs do not only do a good job of serving the leadership and command of combat readiness at sea but also gradually enter deeply into serving increasingly more effectively the leadership and command of the troops doing economic work at sea and along the coast, and also go all-out in engaging in animal husbandry and cultivation.

The actualities of the activities of the naval forces in the area on both the combat readiness front and economic construction front prove that all units and all elements in the area can simultaneously carry out and closely combine the two missions. When the leadership policies and the thoughts of the masses are in accord the revolutionary activity movement in all units develops more and more strongly, and there are created many positive elements in each unit and in each individual in order to overcome many difficulties and do a good job of fulfilling both missions.

We have combined many positive, scientific, and practical measures to fully utilize and develop the advantages and gradually overcome difficulties to win victories on the combat readiness and economic construction fronts.

Uncle Ho said "The policy is one, determination is 10, and methods are 20." Embued with that teaching and not allowing the difficulties to overcome cleverness, the naval forces of coastal area X have for more than a year manifested their tradition of "fighting heroically, resourcefully, and creatively, overcoming difficulties, and being determined to fight and win" in battle, and have endeavored to find and implement many measures and combine the measures in order to victoriously fulfill the missions assigned by the Party committee and command of the armed forces branch.

First of all, on the basis of the missions and norms assigned by the upper echelon, the Party committee of the area determined correct struggle directions and goals on both the front of readiness to fight to defend the sea area and the front of economic construction for the immediate future, during the coming years, and in the long range, which both reflected the intentions of the upper echelon and were appropriate to the existing conditions and developmental capabilities of the entire area. We regard that as a matter of foremost importance, one of decisive significance in finding and effectively implementing important measures regarding the organization and use of forces, working methods, the assuring of material-technical bases, and even raising the all-round level of the cadres and men, etc., in order to victoriously fulfill the combat readiness and economic construction missions.

The immediate struggle direction is to combine being constantly combat-ready, smashing all acts of sabotage of the counterrevolutionaries and the enemy troop remnants continueing to hide out, and assuring order and security in the coastal area and on sea islands, protect the sovereignty and rights of our people at sea with engaging in production labor to exploit marine products, repairing ships and boats, animal husbandry, cultivation, etc., with fishing as the principal concern. In the long range the naval forces in our

area will, along with the other armed forces and the people, gradually advancing to developing coastal area X into a rich and strong region of the Fatherland, with a strong production base with regard to fishing and fish processing, and with strong military forces.

Second, we must organize and utilize forces rationally and scientifically in order to fully utilize the strengths of each unit and develop the strong points and capabilities of each force, and create great strength so that the entire area, as well as each unit, may fulfill both missions well. The problems that is posed is not merely the necessity of large numbers: the important matter is to have rational organization and assign missions that are in accord with the conditions, capabilities and strengths of each force. The wartime experiences showed that throughout the armed forces as well as in the naval forces there were places in which and times at which we used small forces but still won great victories. The same is true in production labor and economic construction, the direction is to advance to production on an increasingly larger scale, but the process of advance must give adequate attention to both the small and medium scales in order to attain high efficiency.

In that spirit, in coastal area X, while deploying forces for both missions we paid attention to rectifying and rearranging the forces and to utilizing them appropriately. At times a small force is sufficient to stop smash the enemy's sabotage plots and acts. And there are times when the use of small forces, a small amount of capital, and a brief period of time is sufficient to attain high economic effectiveness. Due to the responsibilities and capabilities of the units in the area differ in various ways the tasks and missions that are assigned cannot be identical. Some units are engaged principally in catching fish but also patrol at sea. Some units have the principal mission of combat readiness but also catch fish, grow food, or raise farm animals on the spot. All units have principal missions but also have secondary missions. They must do a truly good job of fulfilling both missions, with the greatest possible efforts.

Third, continually improving and strengthening the material-technical bases with a spirit of fully utilizing all types--from the primitive to the semi-modern and modern. Today, with the principal direction of fishing and exploiting and processing marine products on an increasingly larger scale in order to meet the very great needs of the lives of the people and the troops and of export, the naval forces must be equipped with more of the necessary technical facilities for fishing, especially fishing ships and boats and equipment used to catch and process fish. Under the condition of the material-technical bases of fishing and fish processing of the troops in the area still being beset with many difficulties and deficiencies, our cadres and men have gone all-out to find many ways to overcome difficulties in order to repair old and broken down ships and boats, purchase new ships and boats, fully utilize those we took from the enemy, and improve and utilize well the things we already have. We also gave thought to a plan for developing forces when there were conditions for doing so. On the military front, in strongly defending a key sea area, as well as on the economic front, in catching fish

in an area with such great resources, we have increasingly realized that we must pay all-out attention to the scientific-technical revolution in fulfilling the two missions of our army. We have always thought that that is a key concern in order to have a high economic efficiency. For that reason, from now on we must think about and foresee the future tasks in order to have increasingly large numbers of material-technical bases and improve the spirit and capability of mastering science and technology of the cadres and men. The time has come when we must rapidly and stably advance to gradually building industrial installations for catching and processing marine products, from drying kilns, drying patios, refrigerated warehouses, processing factories, transportation facilities, etc., to enterprises for the repair and building of the various types of ships and boats and installations for the large-scale production and mending of nets with high output levels, and the construction of schools and classrooms for the elementary and advanced training of a corps of cadres and men with a relatively good political-ideological level, good specialized ability to engage in economic work, and high cultural and scientific-technical levels.

Fourth, in accordance with the correct direction and goals that have been delineated, and on the basis of there being forces and material-technical bases which are being increasingly strengthened, we must create correct, creative working methods. That is a way of working with plans, combining comprehensiveness with selectivity, combining the short-range with the long-range, and combining plans for readiness to fight to strongly defend the sea area with plans for production labor, the catching of much fish, and the harvesting of many marine product resources. We often must carefully consider each task and carefully calculate the specific conditions and capabilities' so that we may resolutely concentrate our strength on definitively carrying out all urgent tasks which can be carried out immediately and bringing about specific results. With regard to tasks which are important but which we are not yet capable of beginning immediately, we must study them and prepare forces, material-technical bases, etc., in order to advance to carrying them out stably. While carrying out this year's plan we have also made preparations for next year's developmental plan.

Fifth, in order to do a good job of both missions another very important mission is to positively raise the levels of the cadres and men in the area in all respects, with regard to politics and thought, military matters, and economics, and enable everyone to clearly understand the lines, stands, and policies of our Party and state with regard to the socialist revolution throughout the nation, the direction of combining socialist reform with the building of socialism in the South, and the fulfillment of the army's two basic missions. On that basis we must strengthen the working class standpoints and viewpoints, socialist consciousness, the spirit of revolutionary offensive, and the area troops' combat skills as well as their ability to do economic work. The cadres and men of all units in our area realize more clearly than ever that they must rapidly improve their knowledge of economics and economic management science and firmly grasp the techniques of navigation, fishing, processing, repairing ships and boats, etc., and especially that they must improve their ability to combine more and more closely, with increasingly

higher effectiveness, both the combat readiness mission and the economic construction mission in each specific task and in each unit.

All of us must go all-out to, within a relatively short period of time, be both resolute warriors with strong combat skills who stalwartly defend the sea areas of the Fatherland, and workers who produce skillfully and catch fish skillfully in order to developing coastal area X into an area that is rich and strong and contribute to building a powerful nation.

Sixth, we must strengthen the close solidarity and coordination between the naval forces of coastal area X and the other naval units, and the armed forces and the local Party organs, administrations, mass associations, and people throughout the area. That is an important measure which will enable us to do a good job of fulfilling both missions.

In accordance with the resolutions of the Party committee and Command of the armed forces branch, our cadres and men are always concerned with strengthening their spirit of solidarity and take the initiative in coordinating for the victory and common progress of the naval forces throughout the area and throughout the navy. We regard the initial accomplishments that have been achieved and the bright prospects of the entire area are the common achievements of the collective whole, of both the troops and the national economic sectors of the state, as well as of the local governmental organs, mass associations, and people. In the combat activity work campaigns as well as in production labor and the catching and processing of fish, we always endeavor to study the cadres and workers of the marine products sector and the local fisherman. We have shared the good and the bad with the people, during favorable times as well as during times of difficulty, in the process of carrying out both missions. Manifesting a tradition of internal solidarity, military-civilian solidarity, and solidarity with the state organs, especially with the marine products sector and the state fishing fleets, we are confident that in the future that united strength will bring about for the soldiers and people of the entire area many even greater victories in combat readiness to defend the sea area and the Fatherland as well as in economic construction and the exploitation and processing of marine products.

For more than a year now the naval forces of coastal area X have attained a number of accomplishments and have gone all-out to do a good job of fulfilling both of the army's missions. In the process of struggling we have gained much experience and realized more clearly the advantages and difficulties, while at the same time clearly realizing the good prospects and great capabilities of the units throughout the area. Many leadership comrades of the Party and state and the upper-echelon comrades who visited the troops of coastal area X often admonished us to be bolder, to dare think and do, to look ahead, and to put forth a greater effort, with a stronger spirit of revolutionary offensive, and not to become self-satisfied and slow down. Celebrating the 4th Party Congress, all naval cadres and men throughout our area are developing the results of the political activity, self-criticism, and criticism campaign, and transforming determination into specific acts in combat preparedness, the fulfillment of the economic mission, and emulation to score new accomplishments to present to our beloved Party, the organizer of the great victories of all Vietnamese soldiers and people.

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

HO CHI MINH CITY ORGANIZES TROOP RECRUITMENT

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp 54-60

[Article by Ngo Ngoc Dinh: "Troop Recruitment in a Newly Liberated City"]

[Excerpt] Recently Ho Chi Minh City, along with the localities throughout the nation, carried out a troop recruitment drive and selected youths fully qualified to enter our army. That was the first time troop recruitment had been carried out in that city, a large, highly populated city which still has many distinctive characteristics of a city that has recently been liberated after many years under the cruel, cunning ruling yoke of old-style and new-style colonialism.

The troop recruitment, which was carried out more than a year after the city was liberated, stressed the development of the accomplishments and influence of the revolution with regard to politics, national defense, culture and society and the stabilization of living conditions in the city, and also paid attention to developing the spirit of patriotism and the tradition of struggle of the people and youths of the city in the city during the period of occupation by the enemy and during the high tide of the general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975, the liberation of the city, and the liberation of the entire South. Those were very great advantages, but it was also necessary to strive to overcome many difficulties, of which the immediate important difficulty were the incorrect concepts regarding the stands and policies of the Party and state caused by the influence of the distorted propaganda of the enemy in the past among the people. Furthermore, the reactionaries endeavored to sabotage our troop recruitment by spreading false rumors and distorted arguments, sowing confusion and suspicion among our people and youths, and inculcating fear of hardship, difficulty, and labor, which caused a number of people to have incorrect understanding of the noble, enthusiastic lives of the soldiers of the People's Army.

A locality which was carrying out troop recruitment for the first time and had no experience, Ho Chi Minh City had the concern and leadership of the Municipal Party Committee and the guidance of the Command and organs of Military Region 7, and cadres experienced in troop recruitment were sent by the Central Committee to help out. Therefore, it was possible to limit the deficiencies and weaknesses and achieve good results.

In the course of a deep and wide political campaign, Ho Chi Minh City achieved great accomplishments in the initial troop recruitment drive. More than 97 percent of the youths in the military obligation category registered. Many precincts and districts in and around the city attained a ratio of 99 percent, and many wards and townships attained a ratio of 100 percent. A very large number of male and female youths submitted applications to volunteer which stated their ardent aspiration to become soldiers in the People's Army and fulfill the missions of defending the Fatherland and developing the nation. The days of study of the policies regarding the military obligation, registration, undergoing medical examinations, etc., because enthusiastic, wholesome activity sessions, full of a revolutionary spirit, of the people and youths of Ho Chi Minh City.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

UNIT APPLIES COMBAT EXPERIENCES TO ECONOMIC WORK

Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp 61-64

[Article by Captain Vo Van Minh: "Applying Combat Organization and Command Experience in a Unit's Economic Construction Mission"]

[Excerpt] On the 144-kilometer-long Minh Cam-Tien An railroad segment, under the responsibility of Military Region 4, Regiment B was a unit in charge of building and repairing all bridges and culverts, totalling 140 bridges and 164 culverts (except for the bridges more than 40 meters long, which were built by an outside organ). That was a task with a very great volume. The installations had to meet very high technical standards, and the time for completing the work was very urgent, in order to assure the requirement of opening the Thong Nhat railroad line to traffic safely and by the deadline, and score accomplishments to dedicate to the 4th Party Congress.

Regiment B had been a bridge, ferry, and combat road building unit which was not accustomed to building installations of long-range value. Furthermore, a large number of experienced cadres and men had been withdrawn to create new units. The cadres and men who replaced them were infantrymen and new recruits.

What should be done to do a good job of fulfilling that great mission under the conditions of a lack of experience, facilities, and technical personnel? That was a very heavy responsibility of the Party committee and the regimental commander, as well as of all cadres and men.

But Regiment B rapidly overcame the initial difficulties. All tasks were put in good order. The entire regiment advanced on the economic construction front in a planned manner, with certain steps. The regiment was very enthusiastic and fulfilled its mission of building or repairing more than 300 bridges and culverts.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

MOBILITY OF ENGINEERS IN 1975 OFFENSIVE DISCUSSED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese No 12, Dec 76 pp 65-71

[Article by Colonel Pham Cuong: "In the General Offensive and Uprising of the Spring of 1975: Some Experiences in Assuring the Mobility of the Military Engineer Forces"]

[Text] An outstanding characteristic of the general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975 was that it was carried out at an extremely high rate which became increasingly urgent. The forces participated on an increasingly larger scale. The spacial sphere became increasingly large but the time factor was increasingly shortened. The principal fighting method was combined arms combat on an increasingly larger scale. The operational motto of the forces participating in the fighting was always "marvellous speed and boldness," regarding time as force and strength as victory. Therefore, the mission of assuring the mobility of the military engineer troops in that general offensive was very difficult, urgent, and complicated. All of those requirements were concentrated on a strategic goal: winning complete victory for the historic war-deciding battle. We had to make outstanding efforts and keep thinking abreast of the missions and strategic opportunities of the general offensive, and mobilize all our intelligence and concentrate it on assuring mobility, for only then could we contribute worthily to the glorious victory of the nation.

Developing to a high degree the tradition of "victoriously opening roads," the military engineer forces made very strong efforts, overcame all difficulties, and did a good job of assuring the mobility of our army in the general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975.

The military engineer cadres and men clearly realized their political responsibility and heroically advanced in order to keep abreast of the demands of their missions. The military engineer troops:

Assured the installations to serve the marvellously rapid mobility and marvellously rapid combat of the large mobile corps, fully equipped with such modern technical equipment as artillery, armored vehicles, missiles, etc.

Assured that the installations for the campaigns were developed strongly and continuously. Assured that the strategic corps both participated in those campaigns and could move rapidly to participate in other campaigns, especially the historic campaign bearing the name of the great Uncle Ho.

Assured the installations under the different developmental conditions of the general offensive on many different types of terrain: whether in the jungles and mountains or in the coastal lowlands, and whether having to cross many large rivers and canals. The bridges over which had been destroyed by the enemy or penetrating deeply into the cities and towns, thus preventing the rate of movement and development of the troops, on the scale of a division or a corps, not to slow down.

On the basis of the glorious victories that have been won, the military engineer forces must seek out the factors which result in the greatest effectiveness in assuring mobility in order to continually advance to the fulfillment of their missions in the new phase of the revolution.

The military engineer troops' victories in assuring mobility in the general offensive did not occur spontaneously. After decades of warfare and development along the correct military lines of the Party, by 1975 the military engineer troops had developed into large and strong forces with appropriate numbers, high quality, and scientific organization. The military engineers throughout the nation created determination of steel, a spirit of resolutely advancing, and a will to fight and win, sought out the organizational and operational methods that brought about the best results, and developed the strength of all forces and facilities to assure a high degree of mobility throughout the general offensive.

With regard to the organizational methods and formula for assuring mobility, we see the following outstanding matters:

1. With a spirit of positive attack, the military engineer troops focused all their strength on their principal mission--assuring mobility in order to contribute to winning total victory in the general offensive.

While preparing for the general offensive and when the strategic general offensive began, we realized that an outstanding problem in the mission of assuring installations was assuring mobility for the strategic forces in order to increase the developmental rate in each offensive campaign, from one offensive campaign to another. By successfully resolving that problem the military engineer forces would both positively contribute to the common victory of the general offensive and have conditions for raising their levels to assure that their installations took a step forward. The assuring of mobility in the general offensive of 1975 was on the greatest scale ever. Therefore, in order to victoriously fulfill the difficult mission of assuring mobility in the general offensive it was necessary to mobilize forces to the highest degree and focus the principal effort of those forces on the mission of assuring mobility, clearly determine the over-all missions and the specific missions of each force, and combine the strengths of the various forces to

form a great combined force to serve in a concentrated manner the principal strategic direction and the decisive strategic blows, while having sufficient strength to rapidly meet the operational requirements in the other strategic directions and of the coordinated strategic offensive blows.

With complete force organization and development, the military engineer forces of our army were equal to the combat missions in the various phases of the anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation and the general offensive of the spring of 1975. They developed their effectiveness to a high degree and at the same time were used in a concentrated manner in accordance with the requirements of the marvellously rapid development of the general offensive.

The military engineers of the Truong Son Group were the principal forces and were capable of effectively serving strategic transportation and strategic mobility on an increasingly larger scale. Those forces were supplied with additional mechanized equipment so that they could have sufficient strength to fulfill their missions as rapidly and as well as possible. The Truong Son military engineers were also regarded as a strategic reserve force deployed along the Truong Son route in order to assure the nation's aid to the various strategic directions and offensive blows. That was a proper method of deploying and using strategic forces, which was appropriate to the actualities of war and met the constantly developing needs of the battlefield. Therefore, while the general offensive was taking place many Truong Son military engineer units could rapidly turn around and change from one direction to another, and keep up with the formations of the strategic groups. While serving the mechanized infantry, those units restored and repaired the bridges and culverts on the strategic routes which the enemy had destroyed before fleeing, thus forcing those roads to serve our troops so that they could advance at a high rate of speed and win smashing victories.

The military engineers of the military regions were reorganized into regiments. were reinforced with mechanized river-crossing components, had the mission of making strategic preparations and of preparing a network of campaign roads. They did a good job of fulfilling the missions assigned them within the campaign and strategic spheres.

The military engineers of the corps, divisions, and such combat arms as armor, artillery, missiles, etc.--forces which accompanied the units--were strengthened with regard to organization and equipment in order to increase their capability to meet their own mobility requirements, thus assuring rapid and timely mobility for the units.

The strategic reserve military engineer forces directly under the Ministry had the mission of assuring the mobility of the forces moving from the rear area to the battlefield, and were prepared both ideologically and organizationally to serve on the battlefield immediately. They were utilized in the mission of assuring roads and assuring river crossings in the campaigns, and especially were utilized in a concentrated manner to serve the requirement of assuring mobility in the process of preparing to carry out the Ho Chi Minh campaign.

Thus all military engineer forces were highly mobilized, were rectified organizationally, and were strengthened with regard to equipment in order to assure mobility. Therefore the military engineers' ability to assure mobility was greater than ever and they were in a good position to meet their own mobility needs and were always capable of aiding one another and had strong reserve units. The lesson that can be learned here is that when the strategic missions make great demands it is not only necessary to mobilize, but also to organize, in order to develop to a high degree the strength and effectiveness of each military engineer force and each echelon in order to improve their ability to assure mobility, while also combining the strengths of all the forces and echelons in order to create a new, combined strength to serve the principal strategic missions.

2. Resolutely overcoming all difficulties and developing and completing the strategic and campaign road networks in accordance with the requirements and missions of the general offensive and uprising.

That was a mission of assuring the key, decisive installations in order to prepare the powerful military offensive blows of the main-force troops, especially the mobile strategic corps. The development and completion of the strategic road network both reflected the inevitable development of our people's revolutionary war and was an objective requirement after our army had come of age and had organized military units up to the corps level in order to wage campaigns on a large operational scale and including the forces of many corps with increasingly modern equipment.

Prior to the general offensive of the spring of 1975, our strategic and campaign road networks totalled nearly 10,000 kilometers. They were the result of more than 10 years of heroic struggle on the part of the military engineer forces, along with the road-building forces of the state, the people, and the armed forces, under extremely arduous and difficult conditions. They were the result of the upper echelon wisely taking the initiative in preparing for the development of the war situation in the final phase. In order to make direct preparations so that the general offensive and uprising could win a decisive victory in order to conclude the war, our Party, state, and army concentrated a rather large force in order to consolidate and extend the strategic road network. The campaign road network was also expanded in many strategic directions in order to assure the development of the offensive to the lowlands with larger forces, with such decisive strategic goals as the strategic interdiction of the enemy, advancing into the large towns and cities and the large military bases, etc.

The military engineer forces, along with the infantry, Assault Youth, and communication-transportation forces, night and day urgently developed the strategic road network from one artery to two arteries, one to the east of the Truong Son range and one to the west of it, with two-way traffic, rock surfaces, and strong bridges. Therefore, instead of there only being the movement of concentrated forces on the scale of a mechanized battalion, the mechanized movement of whole regiments and divisions was now possible. The strategic reserve forces could move conveniently and rapidly. The time required to move large units from the rear area to the battlefields had declined by two-thirds in comparison to 1972.

The military engineer forces of the military regions were able to build networks of campaign roads in the important strategic directions in Tri-Thien, northern Zone 5, the Central Highlands, and eastern Nam Bo. The networks of campaign roads assured the deployment of large-scale forces which could attack the enemy from the flanks, rapidly achieve surrounding and bypassing maneuvers, penetrate deeply to occupy the enemy headquarters bases, develop the offensive to the lowlands, and take the cities. The campaign road networks also assured that our army could move to carry out strategic interdictions and that we could connect our strategic arteries with those lying within the areas we had just liberated, such as routes 1, 19, 20, 14, 15, and 4. The military engineer forces rapidly repaired the bridges destroyed by the enemy, thus assuring that our army could move by means of the arteries in the newly liberated areas. The strategic and campaign road networks were themselves increasingly filled out.

The lively events and victories of the general offensive of the spring of 1975 affirm the importance and great effectiveness of the road networks that were built during the resistance war and were consolidated and completed in the period just before the general offensive and during the general offensive itself.

The military engineer troops, the hard-core force in assuring the strategic and campaign arteries, grew extremely rapidly in building, defending, and completing the road networks, and did a good job of meeting the strategic requirements of the general offensive and uprising of the spring of 1975.

However, from the actualities of the general offensive we can see the limitations more clearly. The military engineers could only meet the basic requirements with regard to the number of roads and bridges, and quality was low. When complicated situations were encountered they were not rapidly overcome. In the organization of forces to assure mobility, the military engineers must not only have skilled road-building forces but also must have forces to command and coordinate movement on the strategic arteries, at the river crossings, in places with complicated terrain, etc.

The experiences in assuring roads for mobility during the general offensive show that the larger the troop forces, the more modern their equipment, and the greater their mobility, the greater are the requirements regarding the assuring of roads and the more uniform and complete they must be. The more fully those requirements are met with high quality the more time is gained to win victory. We believe that that was an experience, and also a requirement, that must be clearly realized in order to continue to perfect and develop the military engineer forces; capability to assure roads.

3. Develop a spirit of creativity in actual activity, and do a good job of coordinating the military engineer forces assuring mobility which are deployed on the spot with the mobile military engineer forces.

During the general offensive of the spring of 1975 a major requirement of our troops was to move with "more and more marvellously rapid speed." Only if they were extremely rapid and bold in attacking the enemy, surrounding, interdicting, pursuing, etc., could they take advantage of the strategic opportunity to win the greatest possible victory. If the enemy troops were obstinate they could destroy the bridges and create obstacles for the movement of our army. Therefore, in order to do a good job of assuring mobility, in addition to building and developing the road network it was necessary to have good operational formulas so that no matter where and no matter what the circumstances the military engineer forces could always overcome the obstacles and ensure that the troops could move rapidly and continually. During the general offensive of the spring of 1975, the military engineer forces assuring mobility were very large and were organized into different forces, such as military engineer forces deployed on the spot, strategic reserve forces, and forces in the tables of organization of the combat arms, corps, and military regions. At the same time, it is necessary to mention the combat arms which fulfilled military engineer missions, the military engineer forces of the militia and guerrilla forces, the communications-transportation forces, etc. Those forces had to cooperate and coordinate closely with one another and form a unified force which operated in accordance with the unified plan of the general offensive and uprising. In doing so, it was first of all necessary to coordinate the activities of the on-the-spot military engineer forces with those of the mobile military engineer forces.

The on-the-spot forces included the military engineers of the Truong Son Group and the military engineers of the military regions, of which the forces of the Truong Son Group played the principal role. The mobile military engineer forces consisted of the strategic reserve forces and the military engineers in the mobile formations of the corps, armed forces branches, and combat arms. Both of those forces strongly developed their effectiveness and coordinated with each other, assisted one another, and kept up with the mobile corps in order to assure mobility.

The on-the-spot forces were always stationed on the strategic routes and assured the strategic mobility of the strategic army corps. The forces accompanying the formations had the mission of overcoming all obstacles when operating in the areas in which the on-the-spot military engineer forces had not had time to deploy, especially in the newly liberated areas. The forces accompanying the formations were organized into strong transportation units which were capable of assuring the roads and bridges and overcoming the obstacles on the roads, such as mine fields and barriers. They went in advance of the advancing formations. The mission of the forces accompanying the formations was to overcome all obstacles on the roads, repair bridges, cross streams, and assure that the entire formation could rapidly arrive at the predetermined objectives. The combat arms with such heavy equipment as tanks, mechanized artillery, etc., organized subordinate military engineer detachments to serve as forces accompanying tanks and armored vehicles in combat. Those activities served to rapidly and promptly assure a high degree of mobility for the units which were on the move and in the process of attacking.

In the actualities of the general offensives, due to the good combination of the mobility assurance activities of those two forces, so the military engineers assured that the mobile units could achieve great accomplishments under the different, changing conditions and circumstances of the campaigns. In the Central Highlands campaign the mobile units promptly attacked the enemy when they were counterattacking and attacked the enemy when they were withdrawing. In the other campaigns, the military engineers assured that the units both fought the enemy and advanced victoriously. In the Hue-Danang campaign the military engineers contributed to assuring that the troops could fulfill their deep penetration, interdiction, and by-passing missions. In the Ho Chi Minh campaign the military engineers were always present where it was necessary to assure movement and overcame many major obstacles so that the units could assemble at the correct locations and at the stipulated times in order to strongly attack and overwhelm the enemy.

Closely combining the mobility assurance activities of those two forces and combining the military engineers of the strategic, campaign, and tactical echelons became a highly effective operational formula which met well the requirements of the marvellously rapid, bold, surprise, and certain-victory attacks.

The actualities of the general offensive as well as the actualities of the entire anti-U.S. resistance war for national salvation also show that in assuring the mobility installations it is necessary to combine that task with combat to defend the installations and to prevent the enemy from sabotaging the key bridges and roads in the areas still occupied before we arrived.

In the recent general offensive, in addition to deploying military engineer forces on the mobility arteries in order to assure the roads and bridges it was also necessary to coordinate with the sappers who had secretly penetrated deeply into enemy areas and prepared forces in advance to take the important bridges and communications hubs along the principal line of advance before our troops had arrived. That was an important operational formula in order to assure a marvellously rapid rate of attack.

In large-scale coordinated combat arms fighting, assuring mobility by road under the conditions of our country's terrain and weather, is a matter beset with many difficulties and complicated. It is not only necessary to assure a network of roads and bridges that is developed and of high quality, a modern road network, but also to organize strong military engineer forces with rational organization, and all-round capabilities at the various echelons and in the combined troop units and the mechanized combat arm units. Each unit and each echelon must not only be capable of assuring a high degree of mobility but also must skillfully coordinate the activities of the military engineer forces at the various echelons and to the various types in order to effectively assure mobility. The experiences in assuring mobility during the general offensive of the spring of 1975 are very rich. This article has only brought up a few of the initial matters that have been learned from those rich experiences.