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"SHIELD-76" MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE

Pre-Exercise Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] As has already been reported in the press, in conformity with the plan of the Joint Command, there will be held between 9 and 16 September in the Polish People's Republic, in the Bydgoszcz-Szczecin-Wroclaw area, a combined exercise of the Joint Forces of the Warsaw Pact member nations, code-named "Shield-76." The objective of the exercise is to achieve further improvement in the training of command personnel, staffs and troops of the allied forces.

Taking part in the exercise are tactical combined units and subunits of the ground forces and air force of the National People's Army of the GDR, the Polish Army, the Soviet Army, and the Czechoslovak People's Army, a total of approximately 35,000 men. The troops which will be participating in the exercise have already arrived in the concentration areas. Intensive preparations for dynamic operations are under way; plans of coordinated action are being discussed. Friendly get-togethers are taking place throughout the exercise area.

On the way to the exercise area, encountering a labyrinth of unfamiliar streets in a certain Polish city, we stopped to determine which way we should go. We asked a local citizen. He readily responded to our request and replied: "Quite simple. Right up here you turn into Heroes of Stalingrad Street and head right down it, which connects into the road you want."

Heroes of Stalingrad Street. This name speaks eloquently. The people of a Polish city far from the Volga remember the Soviet heroes who fought against fascism. They hold these fighting men close to their hearts and wish to pass on this memory to succeeding generations. These evidences of the brotherhood of the Soviet and Polish peoples can be seen in monuments to Soviet fighting men and in the names of streets, schools, and

Pioneer troops. The brotherhood of our peoples, based on a unity of class interests and on a common ideology, is growing stronger year by year. The indissoluble alliance of the peoples of all the nations of the socialist community is steadily growing stronger and evolving.

Combined exercises of the Joint Forces of the Warsaw Pact member nations have become a tradition. Such exercises constitute not only a school of combat improvement for military units, subunits and staffs but also a genuine school of internationalism. They promote further strengthening of the friendship and solidarity of the peoples of the socialist nations and the fighting alliance of the men of the brother armed forces. All this is graphically confirmed by this year's "Shield-76" exercise.

The toilers of the Polish People's Republic are giving a warm and cordial reception to the fighting men of the four allied armies who have arrived in the area where the exercise is to be held. Numerous get-togethers between military personnel and factory workers, farmers, representatives of administrative authorities and public organizations have been held in the border towns and villages through which the military subunits passed and at the locations where the troops are deployed.

The Polish people, just as the peoples of all the brother socialist nations, view the fighting men of the allied armies as their reliable protectors. This idea was quite well expressed by a worker at a factory in Poznan, Communist Party member Tadeusz Prawat. At a get-together with military personnel he stated, among other things: "The armed forces of the Warsaw Pact member nations constitute a reliable shield defending peace and socialism. The toilers are calm and confident in the knowledge that such a shield exists."

A majestic memorial to Polish-Soviet friendship and the fighting alliance rises on a high hill on the outskirts of P o z n a n. A fortress stood on this spot during the war. Polish patriots took part in the assault on the P o z n a n citadel shoulder to shoulder with Soviet fighting men. The blood of Soviet and Polish citizens was shed on this sacred site.

While in P o z n a n, delegations from the allied armies visited the citadel. Wreaths had been laid at the base of the monument immortalizing the deed of the Soviet fighting men and Polish patriots. Many townspeople joined the military delegation to honor the memory of the dead.

Gathered together on hospitable Polish soil, the men of the brother armies are endeavoring to strengthen ties of friendship and alliance and to exchange experience and know-how in combat skills. One interesting get-together, organized by the political directorate of the Air Force of the Polish People's Republic, was held by Polish military aviators.

"For more than 20 years now we are jointly learning military affairs within the framework of the Warsaw Pact," stated Soviet military pilot Maj V.

Filatov at the get-together. "Our contacts grow stronger with each passing year, the forms and methods of cooperation become further perfected, and ties of friendship develop."

The officers of the National People's Army of the GDR, the Polish Army and the Czechoslovak People's Army also stressed that close contacts, particularly joint exercises, are becoming an increasingly effective form of improving combat skills and promote a deepening of international ties.

A get-together for tank officers of the four allied armies, which was held at the Polish Army's Poznan Higher Tank School, was dedicated to the campaign to improve the quality and efficiency of combat training and the effectiveness of socialist competition. Sr Lt K. Pekarskiy, Lt K. Marsalik, and Capt C. Cherbicz, experts in military training and indoctrination, shared their know-how with their comrades.

Get-togethers on Polish soil, on roads of friendship -- how much they give us, how strong are one's impressions from them! We shall never forget, for example, the encounter and brief conversation on Heroes of Stalingrad Street. While driving down it we recalled the Volga and Mamay Hill. Is that not the starting point of Poland's Heroes of Stalingrad Street, which has become one of the many symbols of the friendship between our peoples and the fighting brotherhood of their armed forces?

Combined Staff Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] A long, low building surrounded by forest, externally giving no hint of the fact that this was the joint headquarters for the exercise. The headquarters was field-equipped, but with maximum working conveniences. Along the walls were partitions separating the rooms into smaller areas. Each was assigned to officers of one of the arms. Broad tables for maps, bright lighting, efficient placement of communications gear.... In short, one sensed that everything had been thought out well and that everything had been done to ensure high productivity of officer work effort.

The functions of any headquarters staff, as a troop command and control agency, are complex and responsible. The tasks of the headquarters staff directing a joint exercise are doubly complex. Take, for example, organization of coordinated action. Even within the framework of a single unit this task requires highly-intense and precise work on the part of all staff officers. In this case they were working with subunits and units of different arms of the various allied armies.

The spatial scale of the exercise is enormous, and headquarters must feel the pulse of troop activities in every area. One of the subunits, for example, having executed a march, arrives in its designated area. A new element immediately appears on the situation map. Line upon line, symbol

upon symbol -- the situation in the exercise area becomes increasingly complex. Various reports from unit headquarters are received at joint headquarters via numerous communication channels. These reports of course contain the most salient and essential items for coordinating operations. Headquarters has many ways of influencing the course of events at the exercise. Let us say that a report has been received from a unit on a decision reached by the unit commander. Is it the best decision for the prevailing situation? Does it permit full utilization of existing capabilities? Will it help the neighboring unit carry out its mission? All these questions are thoroughly studied by exercise headquarters staff officers. Let us assume that an analysis indicates that the decision fails to take into account certain features of the situation. Upon initiation of dynamic actions this unit will encounter complications proceeding from the exercise scenario. If in the course of the engagement the commander corrects his error and displays tactical flexibility, this will immediately be noted by headquarters: a change in the scenario will be introduced.

"We see as one of our tasks," stated Col V. Moskalenko, who was representing the Soviet Army at exercise headquarters together with other officers, "the giving of every possible encouragement for tactically intelligent initiative on the part of subunits and units."

Colonel Moskalenko has served in many command spots; he is a graduate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Academy. One can clearly sense that his experience and know-how are "working" here at full output. This officer described the prevailing situation with laconic but meaningful sentences, responding briefly and calmly to the numerous calls. Behind every word there is excellent knowledge of the situation in the field and a high degree of operational-tactical skill. Colonel Moskalenko speaks very warmly of his colleagues, staff officers from the allied armies, who are working together with him under one roof. Mutual assistance, exchange of experience and know-how, precision and efficiency describe the work style of the exercise headquarters staff. Also notable is a profound interest on the part of all officers in life in the brother countries and in international events.

"I believe I am correct in stating," another Soviet officer, Lt Col F. Dovgokaz, shared an observation with us, "that every staff officer begins the day with a perusal of the newspapers. And that is clearly the way it must be. A staff officer is not a narrow specialist. The profession demands of us broad political knowledge, ideological maturity, intellectual scope. And joint exercises offer the most favorable opportunities to improve these qualities."

"I am very pleased that I have been assigned to exercise headquarters," we were told by Lt Col L. Delling of the National People's Army of the GDR, a graduate of the Soviet Armor Academy imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. Malinovskiy. He recalls with great warmth his years of study, his instructors and fellow students. Lieutenant Colonel Delling made a

request: "Please print in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA my greetings to my Soviet friends: 'My best wishes to Soviet tankers on the occasion of upcoming Tanker's Day; may you celebrate your holiday with successful performance of assigned missions at the exercise. We shall endeavor to ensure that our common armored line is invincible at all times.'"

The colonel bent over the table. The map bore bristly defensive lines and the arrows of swift tank attacks. The "aggressor" was also marked in with great care. His combat formations were dense and diversified. To learn modern combat means to master the art of defeating a strong, well-equipped adversary. And the exercise headquarters staff officers are doing their job to ensure that the troops taking part encounter a situation which is realistically complex and filled with unexpected situations.

Modern combat is characterized by the extensive employment of all arms. The effectiveness of combat employment of units and subunits of a given arm is determined by correctness of planning and actions coordinated in time, place and objective. All this depends in large measure on the headquarters staff, in particular on specialist officers from the arms. At exercise headquarters we met artillery officers, signal officers, and representatives of other arms and branches. It is interesting to note that all the officers we met possess a wealth of work experience both in command and staff slots, that all possess military higher education. Col I. Kudla of the Czechoslovak People's Army, for example, is an artillery officer. After graduating from service school he was placed in command of a platoon and later a battery. Since graduating from the service academy he has served in various staff positions. Colonel Kudla has participated in numerous joint exercises of the allied armies. In talking about his work here at joint headquarters, he emphasized that the officers from the different brother armies worked together smoothly and with complete comprehension.

"If any problem of understanding arises," the officer smiled, "we switch to Russian, which we all know."

As we know, not only ground troops but air force units and subunits as well are taking part in the "Shield-76" exercise. Naturally there are also air force representatives at exercise headquarters. We met one of them -- Col L. Wentzel of the Polish Army, an experienced officer of great professional skill. As many other officers at joint headquarters, Colonel Wentzel has participated in joint exercises on numerous occasions. But as he stated in a conversation with us, experience does not exempt one from continued learning. Life does not stand still; military equipment and the methods and techniques of its employment are constantly improving, and it is essential that one constantly increase one's knowledge.

Joint headquarters -- the coordinating center of the exercise -- pulsed in a dynamic work rhythm. Here, as everywhere, officers of the brother armies are learning combat skills. Their joint efforts at the "Shield-76"

exercise will without question become one more bright page in the chronicle of the fighting fraternity of allied armed forces.

Early Action Scenario

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] Swiftmess of combat actions, sudden and abrupt situation change, endeavor by the opposing sides to achieve the stated objectives as quickly as possible -- these and many other characteristic features of modern combat are being fully manifested at the joint exercise of the brother armies. The tactical situation developed as follows: on one axis the "aggressor" decided, employing massive air power and a concentrated ground forces attack, to defeat the opposing force, after which the "aggressor" would build up his efforts and advance swiftly forward.

From the observation tower sited on a high hill we had an excellent view of the range. The forward edge of the battle area ran along a line of hills. Subunits of the Polish Army occupied positions close to the tower. Army Gen W. Jaruzelski, Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic, was joined on the observation tower by a military delegation from the USSR, on an official friendly visit to Poland, headed by CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov, and military representatives of the other allied armies.

A pregnant silence hung over the exercise area. From the approaching columns, reserves advancing from the deep rear and other characteristic indications noted by the reconnaissance efforts of the defending force, the command had concluded that the opposing side was preparing to attack. The "aggressor" attack began with a massive airstrike. The roar of motors in the sky overhead stirred the seemingly deserted ground below into action. All antiaircraft weapons opened fire on the "aggressor" aircraft. We could hear the booming salvos of the antiaircraft batteries, the staccato sound of the tank-mounted antiaircraft machineguns, and the air-splitting antiaircraft fire of the motorized rifle subunits.

Bright tracers clearly marked the mighty curtain of fire rising in a solid wall over the defensive positions. The air attack stalled without achieving its objective. It was followed by a second and a third attack, but the antiaircraft crews under the command of Capt T. Fronk, the tank crews under the command of Lt A. Mamet, the motorized riflemen under the command of Sr Lt T. Raczycki and other subunits blocked the path of the "aggressor" aircraft each time with an impenetrable curtain of fire.

Observing this successful engagement of aircraft by ground subunits, one cannot help but think about the fact that ground forces subunits are today equipped with powerful weapons and possess much greater capability to withstand an air adversary. At the same time one also notes another

thing -- the smooth, coordinated actions of the subunits, their precise coordination in combat, a feeling of fellowship and mutual assistance. It not only unites the men's efforts to repulse the "aggressor" but also redoubles the men's strength and instills in them a confidence in victory.

We noted this while observing the joint actions of Polish Army Lt Col R. Chologa, Soviet Lt Col V. Urbanovich, and Czechoslovak People's Army Col Z. Katz. We witnessed a meeting between political worker Gds Maj I. Kotlyar and Maj G. Loschek, a political worker in the National People's Army of the GDR, as well as many other get-togethers.

But let us return to the battle, which had flared up with new intensity. The "aggressor" airstrikes were followed by an attack by enemy tanks and infantry combat vehicles. Artillery opened fire on the advancing forces from indirect fire positions, after which the attacking troops were engaged by the antitank missiles of the subunit under the command of Communist Party member Sr Lt L. Talerzak. The closer the tanks and infantry combat vehicles approached the FEBA, the more intensive the defending fire became. Anti-tank artillery opened fire, and tanks delivered direct fire. Combat helicopters swept forward toward the attacking troops from behind the woods.... In spite of the powerful appearance of the armada of armored vehicles advancing on the defensive positions, it proved unable to crush the resistance of the defending force.

Shortly before the battle began we visited a tank subunit which performed particularly swiftly and skillfully in a counterattack. It was commanded by Sr Lt G. Sieczka, holder of the silver and gold "Distinguished Commander" medal. He is a highly-intelligent, well-trained officer. His men are equally well trained. More than half of them are outstanding performers in training, and one out of every three crews bears the title Socialist Service Crew. This subunit is the leader in unit competition. The men clearly demonstrated at the exercise the skill they had acquired in their intensive military training.

A defensive engagement is not mere passive defense of positions. Precise control of personnel and weapons, flexible shifting of fire and maneuvering of subunits, as well as skillful utilization of terrain protection and man-made obstacles immeasurably increase the solidness of defense and make it more vigorous. We saw all these things in this engagement.

Party-Political Workers' Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] We were at a field camp of Soviet motorized riflemen. We stopped at a wall newspaper pinned to a field bulletin board. Our attention was drawn by a headline which read: "Equipment in Dependable Hands." The article told of individuals who had distinguished themselves at the

exercise, who had demonstrated excellent mastery of their equipment. The list included the names of infantry combat vehicle commander Jr Sgt V. Soldatenkov and vehicle driver Pfc V. Ryzhkov. There was a combat leaflet next to the newspaper. Once again the headline: "They Possess an Excellent Mastery of Their Weapons."

Men and equipment.... It is not mere happenstance that these words are more and more frequently encountered alongside one another. Today's troops are armed with first-class combat equipment and weapons. It is a most important task to achieve a consummate mastery of these weapons and equipment, to learn how to make maximum use of their combat capabilities. This is why much attention is devoted to this in party political work at field exercises. Deputy battalion commander for political affairs Sr Lt V. Varinov related how a party meeting was held in the battalion, at which party members discussed their tasks pertaining to mobilizing the men to outstanding performance and skillful employment of weapons and equipment. Komsomol meetings in all companies were dedicated to the same topics. This is the thrust of socialist competition for the men in the course of performing training tasks, and various forms of mass propaganda efforts.

Party political work at field exercises possesses features dictated by the highly dynamic nature of combat operations and by the greater physical and psychological stresses on personnel. The battalion commanders, political workers and party members are aware of this. Senior Lieutenant Barinov enumerates with satisfaction the names of lieutenants A. Nikolayev, S. Popov, S. Lanovik and other party members whose appeal and personal example inspire the men to exemplary performance of tasks.

Party-political work includes the most diversified forms of influencing men's minds and hearts. A special role is played by direct contacts among the fighting men of the brother armed forces. Commanders and political workers extensively utilize these contacts for internationalist indoctrination of personnel. Political instruction classes are held in the units and subunits, dedicated to the brother socialist countries, as well as lectures, discussions and political information sessions.

Col J. Kubik, political worker in the Czechoslovak People's Army, discussing the importance of get-togethers between comrades in arms in order to instill internationalist feelings in military personnel, noted that both the get-togethers proper and particularly exchange of combat work experience and know-how help the men gain a more thorough mastery of their weapons and equipment and promote more efficient utilization of weapons and equipment in joint operations.

Visiting units and subunits of the Czechoslovak People's Army, we became convinced that mobilization of military personnel for mastery of weapons and equipment is an important component part of party political work. We saw this, for example, in the air-force squadron under the command of first-class pilot and Communist Party member Maj M. Chmelik.

It was an interesting experience meeting Jr Sgt J. Cejnar, a young party member in charge of an artillery battery's Socialist Union of Youth organization. His subunit is the best in the unit. In socialist competition in honor of the 15th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the battery earned the title of excellent. At the exercise these artillerymen initiated competition for excellent performance of all fire and tactical missions.

...A winding forest road led us out into a glade where a Polish Army motorized rifle subunit was deployed. A column of infantry combat vehicles extended along the forest edge. We knew that the motorized riflemen had completed a long march and had arrived in the area quite recently. But the combat vehicles had already been serviced. This would seem to be a minor item, but it eloquently attests to the fact that the men of this subunit treat their equipment well and make sure that it is maintained in a state of constant combat readiness.

"That is correct," affirmed Capt Z. Trejnicz, deputy commander for political affairs. "We devote much attention to the equipment. Or more precisely," the officer corrected himself with a smile, "to the men who work with the equipment."

Yes, men are the main object of the attention of commanders, political workers and the party organization. No matter how sophisticated a weapon may be, its potential is realized by man.

Captain Trejnicz related that they had invited war veterans to the training area, who during the war had fought shoulder to shoulder with Soviet soldiers in the attack on the Poznan citadel. The men listened with great interest to the story of one stage in the birth of the fighting alliance between Soviet and Polish servicemen. The veterans instructed the young people to strengthen this fighting friendship.

...Missiles, tanks, and powerful combat vehicles were in the field. Helicopters and supersonic aircraft were in the sky overhead. Soldiers of peace operate this formidable combat equipment, and they are always accompanied by the fervent words of Communist Party members.

Hasty River-Crossing Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] A river stood as a difficult barrier in the path of subunits of the Soviet Armed Forces and the National People's Army of the GDR. Dug in on the far bank, the "aggressor" was attempting to halt the advancing forces.

How does one compare the picture of a river-crossing operation? We have heard many enraptured words: a mighty flood, avalanche, steel waves.... A

truly impressive picture. Armored columns, spread out in lines prior to entering the water, do not halt for a single second. And all this is accompanied by massive fire from ground weapons and airstrikes. Equipment crosses along the river bottom, afloat, on board self-propelled ferries, and by float bridge. All possible modes of crossing a river are employed. There it is -- graphic, convincing testimony to the technological might of the brother armies!

A salvo roars. Massive artillery fire is delivered to the far bank. One more typical sound injects itself into the ominous music of the swelling battle. Combat engineers with bangalore torpedoes are clearing passages through the minefields. Booming artillery salvos are seconded by the sharp reports of the ground forces rapid-fire antiaircraft guns.

In spite of the rainy weather, aircraft were playing an active support role. Flight after flight of fighter-bombers, flying in precise formation, swept over the river, delivering bombs and rockets. The pilots involved in the exercise included many acknowledged experts at aerial maneuver, precise bombing and rocket attack. They included pilots 1st class squadron commander Maj A. Kryachko, his deputy commander for political affairs Maj G. Igonin, and others. The pilots of the fighter squadron under the command of Lt Col I. Smorodin were engaged in fierce air combat at a higher altitude.

"When our planes are in the sky, you feel more confident," we were told prior to the river-crossing operation by motorized rifle company commander Sr Lt A. Popov. Officers from various arms expressed their gratitude to the helicopter crews. These rotary-wing aircraft are acquiring an increasingly broad range of combat employment.

It was helicopters which delivered an assault force to the far bank to support the troops crossing the river. Vigorous actions by the assault force became one of the important factors which tipped the balance in favor of the advancing force.

Infantry combat vehicles are swift and beautiful both en route and during the assault phase. Awareness of their combat capabilities becomes much greater when one witnesses how they plunge into the river at high speed, without halt or hesitation. Throwing a fountain of water into the air, a scarcely noticeable slowing, and the infantry combat vehicle confidently pushes forward, cleaving the water with its steel breast.

"We have outstanding equipment with inexhaustible capabilities," stated motorized rifle company commander Sr Lt V. Gaydukov, whom we met just before the river-crossing operation. "At field exercises, where the combat vehicles are subjected to comprehensive tests, you can see particularly clearly that they embody the latest advances in modern military technology. And of course you also feel your own responsibility for mastering the equipment."

The name of Hero of the Soviet Union Pvt Nikolay Khomenkov is permanently entered on the rolls of the company under the command of this young officer. It is a great honor to serve in this famed subunit. The men of the company appealed to all unit personnel to put in a real combat performance at the exercise, to carry out all missions in an exemplary fashion. A river-crossing operation is a major test for motorized riflemen.

The company's mission was to seize a bridgehead on the far bank in coordination with other subunits, and to support entry into battle of the main forces. Military experience attests that fighting to capture a bridgehead is highly dynamic. The motorized riflemen were reminded of this prior to the crossing operation by company deputy commander for political affairs Lt A. Nikolayev.

The motorized rifle battalion under the command of Capt Yu. Marchenko swept across the river with equal drive. This battalion is one of the regiment's top performers in socialist competition. The subunit's performance at the exercise confirmed the fact that wherever competition is well organized, tactical missions are carried out with precision and equipment is utilized with great efficiency and effectiveness.

The next armored wave -- tank subunits -- rolled down toward the river. And again, not a second of delay at the water's edge. The tanks disappeared under the surface, advancing along the river bottom -- a familiar picture, but nevertheless not your routine activity.

"Prior to crossing a river submerged," we were told by battalion commander Capt V. Maslennikov, "one notes a particular concentration in the men's actions. Much depends on how carefully and thoroughly the equipment is readied, particularly the watertight sealing. Naturally the main thing is the moral-psychological state of personnel."

In the meantime a pontoon bridge was being extended across the river. The bridge was built literally in minutes. There is no doubt that anybody who observed the float bridge engineers at work would certainly praise their skill. We could not help but think what enormous capabilities are possessed by the well-trained, precision-drilled, firmly-disciplined military collective. Men of many occupational specialties take part in assembling a bridge, and each man knows his job precisely. The observer has an impression of the unusual ease and simplicity of this operation. But behind this ease lies enormous daily labor in training. The labor of such officers as Maj S. Gayevoy, Sr Lts N. Stepanov, and A. Niyazov, the labor of warrant officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men.

After the bridge was up, an even heavier stream of combat equipment headed across to the far bank -- artillery, air defense weapons and communications gear, and rear services transport subunits.

The main forces were now crossing the river at the heels of the forward detachment. The main forces, working in coordination with the adjacent force on the left -- subunits of the National People's Army of the GDR -- would be pressing home the attack. Neighboring units were now also engaged in heavy fighting. We were able to reach by telephone a German regiment deputy commander for political affairs.

"The advance is moving well," he reported. "I might note the particularly precise performance of the motorized rifle battalion under the command of Lt Col H. Kraeger and the company under the command of Sr Lt W. Schneiderei."

A brief telephone interview during combat: this is a point which typifies the job of signal personnel at a field exercise. On the communication channels one could hear Polish, Russian, German, and Czech. Representatives of all allied armies can be seen even at a single communications center. Here as everywhere else there is manifested the friendship and brotherhood inherent in relations among the men of our armed forces.

When the river-crossing operations was completed, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov, Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic Army Gen W. Jaruzelski and the leaders of the military delegations of the other socialist countries met with the float bridge construction personnel, who had significantly bettered performance standards in building the bridge. Marshal Ustinov thanked them for their precision combat performance and their skillful utilization of the combat capabilities of their equipment, and noted the excellent training of the subunits of all arms which had taken part in the river-crossing operation.

Concluding Phase Combat Activities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] These hills, sparsely covered with brush, offered a commanding view of the terrain below. Also an ideal place from which to deliver fire. Even a person uninitiated in the finer points of military affairs could see clearly that this range of hills comprised a tactically advantageous position. The opposing forces were engaged in heavy fighting for these hills.

The advance party -- a reinforced motorized rifle company of the Czechoslovak People's Army -- was advancing swiftly along the forest margin. Its mission was to advance to the ridge of hills and to secure deployment of the main forces. The "aggressor" battle outposts were advancing from the opposite direction, with the same mission. Who would succeed?

An engagement was initiated at the foot of the ridge. The commander of the advance party, Senior Lieutenant Kahoun, beat the adversary in deploying his

subunit into combat formation. He had literally preceded the "aggressor" by seconds, but this enabled them to open fire sooner. The swift engagement brought success to the advance party. An engagement between two subunits is only a minor episode in comparison with the exercise as a whole. But it reflected the acute and highly-dynamic character of the combat actions, which were typical of the exercise as a whole. Observing numerous clashes between the opposing sides, one becomes convinced again and again that the time factor is becoming very important in modern-day combat. To gain minutes and seconds means to take the initiative, to obtain an advantage, to beat the enemy in delivering fire from modern weapons.

We witnessed the following on that same ridge of hills. Endeavoring to capture this tactically-advantageous position at any cost, the "aggressor" undertook a tank attack. It seemed impossible to halt the steel avalanche of armored vehicles. But the tanks' path was blocked by fire. The artillery was first to open fire, from indirect-fire positions. Gaps began to form in the solid ranks of the attacking tanks. The vehicles stubbornly continued advancing, but the closer they came, the heavier became the fire delivered by subunits of the Czechoslovak People's Army. Rocket artillery, antitank missiles, tanks and close-range antitank weapons swung into action. The attack began to bog down. In this episode, as at all other stages in the combat operations of the units and subunits of the allied armies, one observed precise coordination and closely-coordinated action. Frequently quite complex situations developed, but smooth and decisive actions inevitably produced results.

At one point subunits of the Czechoslovak People's Army shifted to the attack. The "aggressor" offered stubborn resistance but was unable to hold back the swift onslaught. At this time intelligence reported that the attacking troops were about to be hit with an airstrike. A fighter-bomber subunit of the Polish Army immediately took to the air, with the mission of beating the "aggressor" to the attack by hitting his airfield, putting his aircraft out of commission and damaging the runways. The mission was successful. A particularly fine job was done by the Polish pilots under the command of Maj Z. Karlec. Swiftness of the attack, precision bombing, and skillful maneuver to avoid anti-aircraft fire were demonstrated by these pilots at the exercise.

The ability to concentrate one's entire firepower at the decisive point and to achieve superiority over the adversary is an important condition for attaining success. As we know, however, sudden and abrupt situation changes are a feature of contemporary combat. Under these conditions the commander must display flexibility in fire control and skillful shifting of fire. Otherwise success on one axis may turn into defeat on others.

The men of a tank battalion of the Czechoslovak People's Army were having a difficult time of it. At first the attack was moving well. The tank crews penetrated the "aggressor" defense. But suddenly they encountered a heavily-fortified strong point. An assault without halting in attack position was unsuccessful. Requesting fire from an attached artillery battery,

battalion commander Capt J. Kocovsky directed it at the most vulnerable point in the defense — the left flank of the strong point. Two companies concentrated fire on this area, while the third delivered fire to neutralize the "aggressor" in the center. Breaching the defenders' positions, Captain Kocovsky quickly shifted artillery fire to the center of the strong point, and the battalion again swept forward. Having brought reserves up from the rear, the "aggressor" initiated a counterattack. In this situation as well the battalion commander skillfully utilized his organic and attached weapons, and called up fire support helicopter gunships to repulse the counterattack. The "aggressor's" resistance was crushed.

Fire prepares for the assault phase, leads the attacking troops, and in the defense serves as the foundation of its strength and impregnability. Without reliable and effective delivery of fire on the "aggressor," essentially neither offensive nor defensive actions are possible under present-day conditions. Considerable importance is assumed by the capability to destroy targets with the first round fired, the first missile launched, or the first pass in air combat. The actions of the personnel of the units and subunits of the allied armies were permeated with this endeavor.

We believe that the engagement fought by the tank battalion under the command of Sr Lt A. Lyubenko is indicative. In penetrating the defense and during combat at depth with the "aggressor's" reserve, the tank crews hit their targets as a rule with the first round fired.

Much attention is devoted in this battalion to fire training and dissemination of the experience and know-how of the best gunners. Mobilization of tank crews to achieve a mark of excellent in the execution of fire tasks is a most important area in the activities of commanders, political workers, party and Komsomol organizations. Socialist competition also focuses on this. Challenge pennants to the top gunner and best crew, reward and encouragement for outstanding performers, publicizing of their performance in combat leaflets and wall newspapers, as well as other forms of moral incentive promote improvement in personnel fire skills. Most of the men in the tank battalion are specialists 1st and 2d class. Sr Lts V. Izmaykin and A. Shcherstobitov, Lts V. Malov, Yu. Vyrapayev and many others have shown themselves to be gunnery experts.

A typical scene at the exercise. A tank appeared in the distance, a barely visible dot. It was difficult to spot with the naked eye. But in most cases the opposing side required only a few seconds to destroy the tank with an antitank missile or artillery round. To inflict maximum damage on the adversary at long range means to disrupt his plans, to reduce friendly casualties and in the final analysis to win the battle.

One can hear the same question at numerous get-togethers among the men of the allied armies, in exchange of combat activities experience and know-how in various languages: "How is your gunnery accuracy?" Naturally nobody kept his performance a secret.

The "Shield-76" exercise is almost over. It will be remembered primarily for its combat unity and the high degree of combat skill displayed by all participants. One cannot forget the impressive picture of a rocket launcher subunit in action, a night engagement in which a subunit of the Polish Army participated. The sky was alive with flames; an avalanche of fire poured down onto the "aggressor." The fire, speed and maneuver capabilities of the equipment were fully utilized in a meeting engagement involving the participation of Soviet tank crews. It is a demand of modern combat to get everything out of the equipment, to do everything necessary for victory.

Attack From the Sky

In the final phase of the exercise one tactical mission was accomplished by dropping a paratrooper regiment behind "aggressor" lines.

The day was unusually warm and sunny. The command-observation post located in the assault objective area had an excellent view of a brush-covered field surrounded on all sides by forest. The stillness was suddenly broken by the familiar shriek of jet fighters. The men at the controls of these supersonic aircraft included first-class Soviet aviators, military pilots Lt Col V. Babichev, Majs V. Mukhin, P. Krasnikov and others. Air combat ensued. Then fighter-bombers appeared over the field. They delivered rockets and bombs on the "aggressor" in the jump area. Operating here were the pilots of the excellent-rated subunit under the command of party member Maj A. Kryachko. The "aggressor" was being attacked by top-flight pilots Capt V. Bubnov, Sr Lts V. Leshchev, A. Chetverikov and others.

Now the heavy transports were approaching. They were delivering to the jump area the subunit which was going to provide support for delivery of the main forces. Bright parachute canopies hung suspended in the sky. The chatter of assault rifles on automatic fire erupted: the paratroopers opened fire on the "aggressor" even before touching ground and were lobbing grenades.

The airborne battalion under the command of Gds Maj D. Semak performed with confidence. This subunit is the best in its unit, and it is not surprising that it was assigned the mission of seizing the jump area and supporting the delivery of the main forces. The men of the company under the command of Gds Sr Lt V. Khalilov landed directly in front of the command and observation post. Boldness, daring and resoluteness are features which describe the company commander and his men.

All the men in the regiment also possess these qualities. Upon landing, the paratroopers deployed into combat formation. The subunits swiftly moved out onto the axes to which they had been assigned in advance.

One after another, new waves of heavy aircraft appeared. Arrival of the main forces had begun. Combat vehicles were also dropped, supported by multiple-canopy parachutes. The heavy load, weighing several tons, settled gently to earth. The equipment was followed by men in blue berets. The crews quickly readied the vehicles for combat....

Among the main forces of the airborne assault were the companies under the command of Gds Sr Lt A. Korablev, V. Shipovskiy, and other subunits. One of the combat vehicles was approaching the command and observation post at high speed. It disgorged regimental commander Gds Lt Col Ye. Chernov. He reported to First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party Edward Gierak and CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. Ustinov that the guards airborne regiment had landed in the designated area and had proceeded with execution of the assigned mission.

Comrades Gierak, Ustinov and Jaruzelski wished the commanding officer and the men of his regiment success in their mission. The regiment continued the fighting.

Paratrooper.... This word is always accompanied by such words as courage, valor, resoluteness. The warriors of the winged infantry, armed with potent hardware, displayed all these qualities in full measure in this practice battle.

The central newspapers of all the allied countries are regularly delivered to the units and subunits participating in the exercise. The men also wait impatiently for "their own" newspaper. Its name is TARCZA-76, and in Russian SHCHIT-76.

The newspaper staff, made up of military journalists from the four armies, works together smoothly, efficiently and in a well-coordinated manner. The staff is headed by the editor in charge, Polish Army colonel L. Cichocki.

The materials, received from journalists in the line units, are immediately translated into four languages. They are then submitted to the secretary, Lt Col W. Galinski.

The printers, directed by Lt Col J. Chmura, work late into the night. On the following morning the participants in the exercise receive a new edition of the "field" newspaper.

Post-Exercise Meeting

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 76 p 1

[Text] A meeting was held in the area of the joint "Shield-76" exercise, devoted to the completion of the exercise.

A broad forest glade, gaily decorated with flags and festooned with slogans and banners. Composite subunits of the four allied armies, representing all arms, stand in precise formation. Also present is combat equipment -- tanks, infantry combat vehicles, artillery, and helicopters. Before the assembled men hang broad banners bearing the following slogan in four languages: "In a class alliance and fighting fraternity -- guarding the peace and socialism."

Flags go up the staffs to the accompaniment of the national anthems of the socialist countries whose troops took part in the exercise. The director of the exercise, Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic, Army Gen W. Jaruzelski, reviews the troops in an open vehicle and greets the men. He then climbs to the dais and delivers a speech, in which he emphasizes the defensive nature of the Warsaw Pact and the significance of the just-completed exercise for strengthening the fighting brotherhood of the men of the allied armies and for increasing their skills.

A Soviet officer approaches the microphone -- Gds Sr Lt V. Gorbachev, commander of an excellent-rated motorized rifle company. Expressing the feelings and thoughts of his fighting comrades, the officer states with emotion that the "Shield-76" exercise not only enriched the men with new combat experience but also was a genuine school of internationalism and fighting alliance for them. Turning to Edward Gierek, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, who was present at the meeting, Guards Senior Lieutenant Gorbachev expressed sincere thanks to the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, to the government of the Polish People's Republic and to the entire Polish people for the hospitality, care and attention given the participants in the exercise on the soil of brother Poland.

Capt J. Kocovsky, Czechoslovak People's Army tank battalion commander, Sr Lt E. Asmus, tank company commander of the National People's Army of the GDR, and Sr Lt T. Rzepiecki, youth activities instructor in a unit of the Polish Army, who spoke at the meeting, expressed gratitude to the Polish people and to party and government leaders of the Polish People's Republic on behalf of their comrades. They noted that the "Shield-76" exercise constituted a new stage in the improvement of the combat skills of our fighting men and in strengthening brotherhood and the fighting alliance.

The final speaker was First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party Edward Gierek. He noted that the "Shield-76" exercise constituted another stage in improving coordinated action by the allied armies and played an important role in strengthening the security of the socialist community.

Unity is the main prerequisite for the inviolable security of all our countries, emphasized Gierek. The alliance with the USSR, born in joint struggle and a brotherhood in arms, constitutes a solid guarantee of our

security. The indissoluble alliance between each of our countries and the great Soviet Union is an unshakable foundation for the security of the entire socialist community.

Edward Gierak further stated that thanks to a consistent policy on the part of the Soviet Union and the CPSU, and thanks to the tireless efforts of L. I. Brezhnev and a policy of solidarity on the part of our socialist nations, many important problems have been resolved in recent years, and major progress has been achieved in strengthening mutual confidence and cooperation in international relations. This progress was consolidated by the European Security Conference.

The socialist nations are united by the ideological unity of the brother Marxist-Leninist parties, and they are unified by a common goal and common course of action. On this foundation we shall continue in the future tirelessly consolidating our fraternal relations and strengthening friendship and cooperation with all forces of progress and socialism, stated Gierak.

On behalf of the leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party and the government of the Polish People's Republic, he conveyed sincere gratitude to the participants in the exercise for their selfless military labor and exemplary performance of all combat training tasks.

The meeting came to an end. The band struck up the Internationale, and guns fired a salute. Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee First Secretary Edward Gierak, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov, Minister of National Defense of the Polish People's Republic Army Gen W. Jaruzelski, and the leaders of the military delegations attending the exercise stepped down from the dais and approached the assembled troops. They engaged in friendly conversation and wished them continued success in their military service.

The "Shield-76" exercise is over. It demonstrated the efficiency and high degree of combat readiness of units and subunits and headquarters staffs of the allied armies as well as their ability successfully to perform the complex tasks of contemporary combat in joint operations. The exercise was a vivid demonstration of the unity and friendship of the peoples of the brother socialist nations and the fighting alliance of the men of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact member nations.

Emphasizing Importance of Field Exercises

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep. 76 p 1

[Text] Exercise.... This word is encountered in training schedules winter and spring, summer and fall. It is a customary phenomenon in military life, but it never becomes purely routine, because this is the highest form of combat training, a test of combat maturity. Regardless of the experience and know-how possessed by the officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer and enlisted man, they prepare for a field exercise

with anticipation and enthusiasm. Each individual senses a special feeling of responsibility at the final stage of the training year, aware of the fact that a field exercise at this time constitutes a report on the results of many months of work to achieve a smooth combat performance on the part of the collective, to master equipment and weapons, and to develop those moral qualities in personnel which are necessary for combat.

The emphasis in the current training year is a campaign to achieve further improvement in combat readiness, to improve the quality of combat performance, as well as persistent mastery of new equipment and weapons. Throughout the entire period of training considerable attention is focused on problems of tactics. Organization for combat in a field situation, comprehensive support of combat activities, firm command and control, as well as maintaining coordinated action comprise the foundation of commander training. Characteristic of most training classes is an investigative approach to the utilization of the combat capabilities of equipment and weapons as well as their intelligent employment under various geographic, climatic and weather conditions. All this, in combination with a rigorous, demanding assessment of achieved performance, promoted successful accomplishment of the main tasks of the training year. Conditions for fully meeting socialist pledges have been established for the majority of military collectives. The task consists in making use of time remaining with maximum benefit. In particular, it is necessary thoroughly to prepare for the tactical and special tactical exercises held in this phase. It is essential to ensure that all personnel perform at these exercises with full exertion of mental and physical effort -- this is the important duty of commanders, staffs, political officers, party and Komsomol organizations.

This year's large-scale "Caucasus" and "North" field exercises were distinguished by a high degree of combat activeness. Our fighting men are displaying excellent models of selflessness in the performance of missions at the "Shield-76" exercise involving the brother armies.

Personnel combat activeness at the exercise is determined by many factors. One of the most important factors is precise, competent performance, the inspiring personal example of the commander, his flawless professional training and his broad tactical knowledge. The commander's ability quickly to respond to situation changes, to assign and detail missions in a prompt manner, to unify and guide the efforts of his subordinates, to instill in them boldness, decisiveness and the willingness to overcome any and all difficulties for the sake of accomplishing the assigned task should be particularly evident at the end of the training year. Success at a field exercise is inseparable from commander activity.

Recently excellent performance was demonstrated at a live-fire exercise by the tank crews of the battalion under the command of Capt N. Seleznev. At the exercise, as was noted at the post-exercise critique, everything was subordinated to tactical expedience and was in conformity with the specific situation. The officers were firm in fire control, selected the

most efficient methods of destroying the "aggressor's" weapons, and demanded of their crews intelligent utilization of the protective capabilities of the terrain, as well as swift actions of initiative.

There is no higher honor for a commander than to earn the reputation of a skilled organizer of combat and mature tactician. Every commander should do everything in his power to earn this honor.

Exemplary preparation for a field exercise and successful performance of missions in the dynamics of execution are impossible without purposeful, efficient and flexible staff performance. Analysis of incoming information, profound conclusions drawn from this information, and securing of stable communications with the subunits -- these and many other items relating to organization for and conduct of combat comprise the competence of the headquarters staff. Every staff officer must be an active, efficient assistant to his commanding officer, must make the maximum personal contribution toward preparing for the exercise, and must demonstrate in the course of the exercise his improving skills and performance capability. In the final weeks of the training period it is particularly important to combine observation with assistance, to ensure that by the beginning of the final examination exercise not a single subunit contains gaps in completion of the training schedule and programs, that personnel enter the exercise fully armed with knowledge and skills. Staff personnel have broad opportunities at their disposal in this area as well.

One can scarcely exaggerate the contribution to organization and conduct of exercises made by rear services specialists. They determine in large measure whether equipment and weapons operate without malfunction on the battlefield, living conditions for the men in the field, and the quality of performance of combat training tasks. It is important that all weapons be checked and that every vehicle be readied for operation under conditions of inclement autumn weather, and that all supply channels run smoothly and reliably in the most complex tactical situation.

Any failure or miscalculation in this area inevitably leads to serious problems. Here is a graphic example. In the subunit under the command of Sr Lt N. Artyukhin, the main radio set failed at the moment of initiation of the assault phase of an attack. Loss of control and communications with attached and supporting subunits even for a short time weakened the force of the attack and had an effect on precision of execution.

Tactical exercises are a critical examination for political officers, party and Komsomol organizations. It is their responsibility to provide personnel with a thorough briefing on the objectives of each exercise and to use all forms of party political work to increase the patriotic enthusiasm of the men and their desire to carry out the assigned tasks in an exemplary fashion. Communists and Komsomol members should set the tone at an exercise in the competition to meet performance standards, and they should display an example of expert mastery of equipment and weapons, a

model of courage, stamina, and willingness to support one's comrade. News sheets, combat leaflets and "lightning" news flashes, radio broadcasts, photo newspapers, and personal reports by party and Komsomol activists -- all these means must be employed to communicate to the participants in the exercise the names of the outstanding performers and instructive points from their performance, to infuse in each man a supplementary charge of energy and combat inspiration.

To achieve high effectiveness at exercises conducted at the final stage of the summer training period means to raise to a new level the combat readiness of subunits, units and naval ships and to secure in the year of the 25th CPSU Congress a further increase in the combat might of our Armed Forces.

3024
CSO: 1801

STAFF OFFICER ROLE IN TROOP CONTROL DURING BATTLE STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Guards Lt Col A. Logvin, commander of the Guards Tank Novgorod-Berlin Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and the Red Star Regiment, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "The Reliability of Control -- the Commander and Modern Battle"]

[Text] The regiment was given the mission of taking the enemy's intermediate line of defense on the run and developing the attack in depth. It was clear from the situation that everything depended on the precision and coordination in the work of the commanders of the tank, attached, and supporting subunits. They had to carry out a maneuver and reach the line of attack at exactly the right moment, not a minute before or after.

Later, when analyzing the development of this exercise it was not difficult to reach the conclusion that reliable control of the subunits was one of the factors which insured success in battle. This was what enabled the commanders to take the necessary steps at the right time to permit the cooperating subunits to attack the enemy together. This instance showed once again how important it is for officers in command training to work persistently and carefully on questions of control. The actions of the subunits in a rather complex situation enabled us to get a good idea of the ability of the commanders to control the battle.

It is important for every commander who has officers under him to find this out. Then he will be able to structure his work with subordinate officers better. The duties of an officer are many-faceted. He must be able to conduct training periods intelligently, organize socialist competition, and accomplish other missions defined by combined arms regulations, instructions, and manuals. But the crucial test comes at exercises, where he shows his maturity as an organizer of battle.

Reliability of control in battle is one of the decisive conditions for victory. This is a starting point for us in working on command and methodological training for officers. As an example, I will refer to work with officers in the tank battalion commanded by Guards Capt N. Yegoryshev. Above all I would like to observe that the battalion commander

himself is more than just hard-working and energetic; he is in fact a gifted officer. He understands the nature of modern battle well and can think creatively about tactics. This is what enables him to reach optimal decisions quickly in any situation. The commander's plan, of course, is the basis of troop control. The battalion commander works hard to pass his know-how on to his subordinate officers. It is also noteworthy that a high degree of working harmony has been achieved in the work of the commander and his staff. I deliberately stress this because the staff is the basic means with which the commander controls his subunits on the field of battle.

It should be observed, however, that this is not just a matter of the commander's talent. There was a time when control was not so well-organized in the battalion. Once at an exercise the battalion was attacking a strongpoint but failed to carry out the maneuver planned by the commander to strike the enemy from the flank. They were let down by a company whose commander somewhat misunderstood the battle instructions, and that happened because he did not know the table of control signals properly.

This case served as a good lesson not only for Captain Yegoryshev and his subordinates but for all of us. After all, communication is the material foundation of troop control in battle. To lose communication means to lose everything, especially in modern battle where, with the great concentration of sophisticated communications technology, the enemy will immediately begin using powerful jamming equipment. This was what we wanted to focus all the officers' attention on when analyzing this exercise. It is important for the men to be deeply aware of the fact that the days of "clean air" [without jamming] are gone. But experience showed that not all of them understood this. The regimental commander and party organization had to see that commanders at all levels gave radio training serious attention. The preparation of appropriate specialists to operate modern communications equipment is a constant concern.

Here is one more noteworthy detail. Realizing the importance of the problem, officers began to struggle more energetically for high quality and effectiveness in training periods on communications equipment and to be more bold in introducing progressive methods of controlling subunits on the field of battle borrowed from the officers of other units.

During staff and radio drills and short tactical exercises we always try to teach the officers everything new and progressive. Battle drill exercises with men on foot simulating tanks are also productive. Crews, platoons, and companies assume battle formations with reduced intervals. The commands are given by voice, not by radio. Then when the rudiments of this method have been grasped similar actions are worked through in the tanks using radio equipment. Active countermeasures are always included. All this produces palpable results. Once, in the thick of a training battle, the enemy discovered the working band of the regiment's radio net and began powerful jamming. This happened exactly at the time when the

battalion commanded by Guards Lt Col A. Mikvelyan had to be redirected. The battalion commander did not lose his composure. Correctly grasping the situation he quickly switched to the backup frequency and was able to receive the needed signal. As a result the enemy was not able to thwart the plan of attack.

Practice teaches us that reliability of control assumes more than just stable communication. Much also depends on the completeness of the information about the other side which the commander and his staff have, their ability to anticipate the nature of enemy actions, maneuver with forces and means, and so on.

We look after the organization of reconnaissance at every exercise, to see that the staff has reliable information on the enemy. Often we will make a model of the terrain where we must operate and review possible variations of enemy behavior. All this taken together helps the officers orient themselves in the situation better and respond to all changes in it quickly and correctly.

Surely, no one needs to be convinced that reliability of subunit control in battle depends decisively on the working precision and teamwork of staff officers. But they are not all equally well-trained. Guards Sr Lt M. Zaytsev, deputy chief of staff, for example, has shown that he is a sensible officer with an outstanding knowledge of his work. But some of the comrades still lack essential skills. Naturally, special attention is given to training them. Work with officers to improve their skills in controlling subunits is differentiated according to their individual characteristics. This is beneficial. There was a time when officers V. Kuzin and B. Kukharkin, as well as certain other comrades responsible for the combat support of the subunits, occasionally failed to find their proper place during battle. Individual work with them eliminated the gaps in their theoretical training. In staff drills and short tactical exercises the officers enriched their skills and learned to operate with tactical intelligence. The main thing was that each of them became permeated with a sense of responsibility for performance of his duties of combat support to the subunits in various kinds of battle.

As we see, there are many factors which insure reliability of control in battle. Therefore, now, when we are evaluating everything which the officers have learned during the year, it is very important to determine how fully these factors are considered in the course of command training. This will help us find new, more effective ways to improve the tactical skill of the officers in mastering the rich arsenal of procedures and methods for controlling subunits in modern battle.

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CSO: 1801

SUBORDINATES MUST BE TREATED WITH RESPECT, DIGNITY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Col B. Pendyur: "Sometimes He Gets a Little Mad"]

[Text] Not more than half an hour after my arrival in the regiment he appeared in the party bureau room and, after briefly introducing himself, blurted out: "Tell me, do you think it is right?"

He spoke hurriedly and with some resentment, as if he were afraid that I would not listen to the whole story. From his story I gathered the following. He, company commander Capt Oleg Petrovich Basyuk, was finishing up a 24-hour tour of duty when one of the soldiers ran up to him and said: "Comrade captain, two girls that I know from my home town hav dropped in to see me. Can I talk with them for a few minutes in the main checkpoint room?"

The captain authorized it, because the day before he had asked the chief of staff what to do in such a case in view of the fact that the regular rooms for receiving visitors was being fixed up. The chief of staff authorized use of the main checkpoint room for this purpose.

But the next development was unexpected. Captain Basyuk's commander, Yuriy Kirillovich Antonov, arrived at the main gate. The sight of the soldier talking with the girls for some reason caused him to lose control of himself, and all his fury was poured on his subordinate officer. There is certainly no reason to relate the content of this emotional monologue. The senior officer refused to listen to the captain's explanation and made a decision which was strange, to say the least: as punishment he ordered Captain Basyuk to remain on duty for another 24 hours.

The captain told me all this in an agitated manner. Looking at his fiery eyes I thought that he had just come off the second 24 hours of duty and that this explained why he took everything that happened, down to the smallest details, so hard. That is what I thought, but still I asked: "When did this happen?"

It had happened in January.

For half a year, six long months, the man had carried this burning hurt inside him. Day and night, it gave him no peace; it forced him to seek the slightest opportunity to pour out his feelings to someone, to find support and somehow regain his emotional balance. That was the cost of the accusation tossed off in passing by the commander, the hasty punishment. There is no need to say that the decision to leave the captain on duty for a second 24 hours was completely against regulations.

Later various comrades somewhat uncertainly told me that this was a rare case, that such "manners" were not at all typical of Yuriy Kirillovich Antonov, and that Captain Basyuk was far from perfect in his work... In general, they tried to have me think that nothing unusual had happened.

The fact that rudeness or any injustice on the part of the senior officer deeply wounds a subordinate has been discussed in writing and talk many times. To attempt to show that this is bad would be as superfluous as breaking down an unlocked door. It is also quite clear that such "recidivists" are increasingly rare in our military collectives. But this would seem to be why they look so ugly, against the background of the increased cultural and educational level of army and navy personnel, why they so flagrantly clash with the sophisticated emotional makeup of the Soviet fighting man.

It would not be difficult, one would think, for any commander to establish even, calm relations with his subordinates. But all of us have seen cases where certain seemingly confident and strict men have, with no ostensible reason, resorted to intonations usually characteristic of the weak and unbalanced. And if someone were to tell them that they should not do it, that it conflicts with regulations and the demands of military ethics, they would brush it aside impatiently, saying, "It doesn't mean a thing. Anyway, these are soldiers, not spoiled little girls."

It is true that army life is not gentle. A man in the service is strong physically and emotionally. We are proud to think of our army as a school of courage and toughness. But this certainly does not mean that human feelings become coarsened during the years of service. The entire organization of military life, all party political work, is aimed at developing conscious defenders of our country, and this means people with a highly developed sense of personal dignity. The two qualities are inseparable. Thus, anyone who tries to excuse his own lack of tact by saying it is virtually the norm in military life is either consciously covering up his pedagogical inadequacies or has no idea at all how damaging such a "style" of leadership is.

Let us return to the story at the main checkpoint. We will try to mentally trace the reactions of the participants in this conflict. There is no doubt that the girls from the soldier's hometown went away with a feeling of bitterness. They were rudely kicked out, two men were bawled out in their presence, and then had reason to think that the dressing down was their fault. It is entirely possible that they will get a distorted idea of the military unit where their friend is serving. And, of course, they will tell other people what happened.

The soldier went away shamed (it is not too strong a word) in the eyes of the girls. We still do not know what feelings bind him to one of them. It is not impossible that this could be a great trauma for a young man. But his sufferings do not end there; in his presence an officer senior to him in rank and position was reprimanded. Just to witness such a scene is unpleasant. Add to that the fact that what occurred right in front of him conflicted with military ethics, which he has been taught to respect at every training period. And finally, he too will be bothered by an awareness of his own guilt -- it was because of him that the officer got into trouble. The soldier himself showed how strong this feeling of guilt can be; some time later he came to Captain Basyuk and asked to be forgiven because he was the cause of the incident.

The soldier's action can be understood in human terms, but what is it like for an officer and commander to receive sympathy from a soldier on such an account! Furthermore, if the officer were to accept this sympathy it would mean that he and the soldier would be united by a common feeling of resentment. But against whom?

"It would have been better if the soldier had not come and apologized," Captain Basyuk admitted. "That just made it worse. It means that now the men know that I was undeservedly bawled out as if I were a little boy, I was humiliated in the presence of my juniors, if you want to put it that way, and I had nothing to do but take it."

That is the point, in the presence of juniors. What need was there for that? It would have been much simpler, I would think, if Comrade Antonov had taken the captain aside after he saw an apparent violation in the checkpoint room. He could have asked what he wanted to know, and if the explanation was unsatisfactory, he could, of course, give an order such as: "This is not the place for such things, nor the right time. But since permission was given, would you please find a tactful way to correct your error. And you will be punished for the fact that you, as duty officer, violated my rules."

It is all elementary and all prescribed for every military serviceman in the regulations. Always be tactful, never dress down a subordinate in the presence of his subordinates, do not shoot from the hip -- you are dealing with people.

These are the consequences within a military collective when the simplest requirements of military ethics are violated. It appears that, on the one hand, we speak seriously at meetings of the need for a demanding but at the same time sensitive attitude toward the men and we warmly support the individual method of education while, on the other hand we put major obstacles in the way of achieving these goals.

I will never forget Viktor Mikhaylovich Beltov, my first regimental commander. Not once in four years did we, the young officers, hear an insulting note in his voice, even though there were situations (and this I now

understand even better!) when it might have seemed impossible to hold back. At exercises once, after we had set up a radio center in the previous stage, for some reason key channels did not work. They were spurring us on so much from above that Colonel Beltov himself came to one of the radio sets. After listening to our explanations he said briefly, "Let's figure it out together." We began to review the matter. One after another the commander rejected our suggestions. Time was racing forward.

And just at that moment, as fate would have it, one of the platoon leaders, our peer, standing next to the truck we were in, began to chew out a soldier because the soldier could not find the damaged place on a connecting line quickly. The soldier was trying to justify himself, but the platoon leader would not listen to him. He grew furious and his words became offensive.

We saw the colonel's reaction on his face. Finally he could stand it no longer. He abruptly pushed away the diagram and walked to the door. "Now he's going to let him have it," Lt Vitaliy Pochtarev managed to whisper to me.

But no, what we expected did not happen. In a restrained voice he ordered the lieutenant to climb into the truck. He asked him to sit down. And then all he said was, "You should be ashamed! You, an officer and teacher, lowering yourself to shouting. You are showing your impotence in front of a young soldier who you yourself have not managed to train properly. You certainly know that tactless behavior is an impassable swamp on the road to the trust of our subordinates. But without that trust we do not have the right to be commanders."

Colonel Beltov had every moral right to talk that way. He was a spiritually rich person, a highly moral individual, and would never have allowed himself to insult someone else, especially not someone lower in rank or position. He would not have allowed it because it is most degrading for the person who insults another.

What a pity it is that some party collectives look askance at the so-called "unregulated" forms of interaction between the leader and the subordinate, forms which often conceal indifference and a lack of interest in the other person. We all know very well that the field of human relations is so diverse that they cannot possibly all be regulated. There are (and will continue to be) situations where the leader calls his subordinate by his first name and uses the familiar pronoun "ty." This is not contrary to nature if such interaction is dictated by pedagogical expediency or sincere emotion, as long as it carries a note of friendliness and paternal sympathy. Sometimes one such word can be more precious to a person than dozens of carefully explained lessons.

It would be unrealistic to expect the elimination of those cases where a leader mistakenly punishes a subordinate, undeservedly treats him wrong.

In fact, this is how they tried to explain the behavior of Yuriy Kirillovich Antonov to me. "Sometimes he gets a little mad."

That does happen sometimes, of course. But in such cases there is one more ethical guideline. When a person understands that he has been wrong he apologizes. This can only raise the leader in the eyes of his subordinate. It will demonstrate the honest, party-minded approach one should take toward one's own mistakes.

Incidentally, when I related this six-month old story to senior political worker Yuriy Yakovlevich Gudimov he immediately suggested, "Get in the car. Let's go talk to Antonov." And all the while as we drove he lamented, "How could this happen! Such a thoughtless act damages the health of the collective." That is just what it was, thoughtless.

Unfortunately, Antonov was not with his unit. Yuriy Yakovlevich assembled several staff officers, found out in detail how the daily detail was organized, and asked particularly about the incident at the main gate checkpoint.

When we were alone again he said, "Antonov will definitely apologize to the captain. This will not continue."

Of course, strictness is entirely appropriate in this case, because it is dictated by concern for the purity of mutual relations in the military collective. At its 25th congress the party called on all communist leaders to think of the moral consequences every time they make a decision. This applies doubly to any military serviceman who has been given the exalted right to command people.

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CSO: 1801

PROMOTIONS GO FIRST TO MOST DILIGENT, CREATIVE YOUNG OFFICERS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Sep 76 p 2

[Letter to the editors by Maj A. Filev: "Who Gets Promoted"]

[Text] Sr Lt V. Melenev considered the promotion of his peer, Sr Lt A. Luk'yanov, as deserved. Even though they had graduated from higher military school at the same time he had to admit that Luk'yanov had since surpassed him in many respects: in both combat skill and work with the men.

But when it became known that Lt V. Shcherbovich was also passing him up in the service, he became disturbed. Why, he asked, has this happened? After all, Shcherbovich had begun his service quite a bit later. Did he have a perfect knowledge of the combat equipment? Well if he did, there did not seem to be any complaints about him, Melenev, in this regard wither. Moreover, Melenev had passed candidacy examinations in philosophy and English language and was preparing to begin graduate study. What else could he do?

At first glance Senior Lieutenant Melenev had some grounds for indignation and even resentment. He had not been idle, after all. He had expanded his knowledge and improved his practical skills. In short, he could not be accused of complacency or passivism. Nevertheless, before drawing our final conclusion let us look at some more facts.

In the course of a command-staff exercise once a complex situation was created. The inputs followed one after the other. At this same time Lieutenant Shcherbovich had to perform not only his own duties but those of a team member who was knocked out. Moreover, the umpire announced that part of their equipment was out of order. This cost them one of their communications channels. But the officer did not lose his composure. He found a way out of the situation almost instantaneously. Those around him just exchanged glances, as if saying: "This guy has talent!"

As it turned out, it was not a matter of some special capabilities. Lieutenant Shcherbovich works a great deal on self-improvement and reads the military literature regularly, giving special attention to the publications which relate to his specialization. Specifically, not long before the exercise he had studied an article which reviewed the problems of signal passage.

"They analyzed a situation that was almost the same," Shcherbovich explained. "I studied its application to our machinery and drew certain conclusions. So my actions after the input were really already planned."

Another time the lieutenant was assigned to train radio telegraph operators. Some of them had not acquired solid practical skills. The officer began work with enthusiasm, but soon came to the commander and reported that he would not be able to carry out the mission unless the physical facilities were significantly improved.

"The facilities are just not up to present-day standards," he insisted. "We need a special trainer."

After receiving the commander's okay Lieutenant Shcherbovich picked out the men and became head of a volunteer group to remodel the classroom. A plan for a trainer was quickly developed. They all went to work on it.

What was it that helped Lieutenant Shcherbovich handle this mission? His persistence and purposefulness certainly played a part, but they were not the only things. This officer saw to the heart of things and realized that an increase in the number of trainers would not produce the desired results. He sensed that some major changes in teaching methods were needed. Shcherbovich could tell exactly what they were because when he familiarized himself with new things in the military-technical literature he always made a mental note of those which could be adopted in the practical work of the unit or subunit.

When I came to know Lieutenant Shcherbovich better I found that he directs all his thoughts to acquiring precisely that knowledge which he would need as an officer, teacher, and specialist. Of course, he too has other interests. He is an active member of the sport committee and the lecture group and heads a soldiers musical group which he himself set up. In my opinion this is fine too. The higher the intellect, the easier it will be for an officer to influence his subordinates.

As for Melenev, he also works to expand his knowledge and broaden his horizons. But he lacks purposefulness and does not always see what is the main thing. He becomes carried away by many things: literature, painting, a foreign language. This is good. What is not good is that he devotes less time to independent ideological-theoretical and combat training. This inevitably is reflected in his practical activities, in the performance of functional duties. His service results are more modest than those of his comrades and he is growing as a specialist more slowly.

That is the real reason that his comrades are passing him up in promotions.

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IMPROVE PROCUREMENT, STORAGE OF PRODUCE BY MILITARY ENTERPRISES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen Intend Serv Ye. Gol'dberg, chief of the Main Directorate of Trade of the USSR Ministry of Defense: "Fill the Storehouses for Winter!"]

[Text] "Improve the year-round supply of fresh vegetables and fruits to the population" -- that is how the 25th CPSU Congress formulated the job of those who produce, procure, and sell these valuable food products for the Tenth Five-Year Plan. This phrase expresses party concern for further raising the well-being of the Soviet people, and specifically that there should be no seasonal limitations on the diet of the Soviet worker.

The assignment is directly relevant to workers in military trade, who are expected to provide an uninterrupted supply of the full, broad variety of food products to fighting men, their families, and Soviet Army and Navy workers and employees. Already today we have significant capabilities for accomplishing this. The country allocates adequate amounts of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit to military trade, we have good cadres of specialists, and our material-technical base is developing rapidly. In the Ninth Five-Year Plan alone the usable area of warehouses and storage buildings increased more than 33 percent and many facilities received the latest equipment. The network of vegetable stores, stands, and kiosks increased by 27 percent. All this made it possible to increase the sale of agricultural products by 50 percent.

The procurement and sale of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit also rose significantly last year. Thousands of tons of early vegetables and fruit and 368 tons of strawberries were delivered to remote garrisons of the Far North, Far East, Transbaikal region, and Siberia by air alone. The consumption of vegetables in public catering rose 12 percent in comparison with the same period of the preceding year.

During preparations for the current procurement campaign a general plan of upcoming jobs was drawn up, procurement regions for each military trade enterprise were determined, and transport was allocated. Officers A. Naydenov and Yu. Kazakov, specialists from the Main Directorate of Trade,

are engaged in considerable organizational work. They are always found at places where procurements are being made.

Work is well organized in the trade directorates of the Leningrad, Carpathian, Transcaucasian, and Baltic military districts and the Northern Fleet, where the military council, commanders, and political agencies give serious attention to procurement matters. For example, the commander of the Northern Fleet ratified a detailed plan for delivery of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit to each garrison. The plan envisioned support of this work with vehicle transport, boats, and loading-unloading teams, set specific times for storehouses to be ready, and established the persons responsible for each work sector.

The trade directorate headed by Col K. Vasilevskiy took a good approach to organization of procurement work. Using heavy-duty refrigerator trucks they have established a kind of conveyor system which moves products from the suppliers' fields to the store counters and storehouses. Because this not only makes for better operations but also improves the quality of products (when loads are not switched from one container to another they reach the consumer unharmed) the directorate has received tens of thousands of rubles of net profit in just its first two months. And there is no way to measure the pleasure of the buyers and guests at dining halls, who receive produce straight from the fields, so to speak. They are also completely confident that such products can be preserved without loss until the next harvest.

Experience shows that the situation is always best where trade workers enjoy daily assistance from the commanders and political workers. The garrison stores served by the military trade enterprise directed by S. Gayvoronskiy offer customers vegetables, greens, and fruit all year. Much of the credit for this goes to the chief of the garrison. Despite his many other concerns he finds time to check on the preparation of storage areas for winter, the course of procurement, and the way stocks are stored. He looks after growth in the professional skill of rear services specialists and is strict with shortcomings in work.

We should take note of the successes achieved by numerous trade organizations of the Leningrad and Odessa military districts, the Black Sea Fleet, and the Moscow garrison in organizing winter storage of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit.

All the same, the problem of year-round supply of these valuable products to our customers has not been solved in all places. This year less fruit has been sold in some garrisons than during the same period last year. This is certainly not because of lack of allocations or some "failure of attention" by suppliers. The reason is the inability of certain workers to use available opportunities, sometimes also their lack of desire to have "anything to do" with such bulky, heavy, but inexpensive goods. Indeed, how much easier it is to sell a quintal of meat than a ton of potatoes, even though the profit is the same.

This approach deserves the harshest criticism and an immediate response by military trade managers.

There has been a significant lag of fruit and vegetable procurement and sales behind plan assignments for a long time in the trade organizations of the Far East, Transbaikal, and Kiev military districts (chiefs of the directorates are colonels I. Potetnya, V. Ust'yantsev, and V. Fedosov). This problem must be eliminated as quickly as possible, fully providing for customers' needs for potatoes, vegetables and fruits and achieving a high level of preservation of winter stocks.

The preparation of storage areas is a serious brake on procurements in many places. Military construction workers, who failed to turn over two fruit storehouses in the Central Asian military district and a refrigeration unit in the Far East district, are to be reproached for this.

Mistakes which have been made in the past should be avoided during the current procurement campaign. For example, this summer a number of military trade enterprises miscalculated the demand for potatoes, vegetables, and fruit. As a result people were left without these products for a certain time and the enterprises lost additional earnings. Last year little attention was given to laying in fresh cabbage and various pickled goods for winter storage. The question of substituting other products for ones which, for some reason, are not available must be raised with suppliers at the proper time. In the past we have had very considerable losses of produce during shipping and loading-unloading work. This makes the limited use of heavy-duty refrigeration trucks in certain places even harder to understand.

Every military trade enterprise must have a sound sales plan for evenly distributed release of winter stocks.

It is very important to preserve the produce which is already in the storehouses. Nothing is unimportant here. Maintaining proper temperature and humidity, timely sorting of fruit and root foods, and skillful selection for sales -- these are all important in seeing that the consumer receives high quality produce. It was failure to observe these seemingly elementary rules that proved costly for the trade directorates of the Far East and Transbaikal military districts and the Pacific Ocean Fleet last year; they suffered considerable losses of potatoes and vegetables. We must be more resolute in switching to container storage of winter stocks; it is a method which permits us to mechanize the labor of storehouse workers and reduce spoilage of agricultural products.

Strict checks on all facets of the work must be established by the managers of military trade enterprises and commanders, political workers, and people's control groups and committees. Each instance of violation of the rules for procurement and storage of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit must be properly assessed. The possibilities of socialist competition for timely and high quality work must be used more extensively.

Procurement of products from the new harvest is an important political and economic task. Through it military trade workers contribute to carrying out the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

NAVAL COMBAT TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Morale; Communication With Home

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Sep 76 p 1

[Article by Capt 1st Rank V. Alekseyev, commander of a missile-carrying submarine: "Communication Session"]

[Text] Our old friend, the ocean, was inhospitable that day. Its mighty breathing could be felt even at great depth. And the closer the sub came to the surface the more strongly we could feel the might and power of the unbounded elements and the more the list gauge deviated from zero. The missile sub was coming up to communicate with its native shore.

Each crew member waited for the communication session in a different way. Where I, the commander, was concerned about whether there would be any changes in the mission given by the senior officer and, if so, what kind, young Smn Nikolay Ungarov, for example, was mainly expecting to observe the work of his instructor, bosun Aleksandr Petrov.

Ungarov was on his first cruise. His experience was slight, but he had an important position, helmsman. Of course, he was a hard-working and bright sailor and he started mastering his specialization quickly. But even today he is still amazed at the virtuoso skill of Warrant Officer Petrov. On this day too the bosun was showing his class; the movements of his hands when he turned the wheel were precise, elegant, and almost unnoticed by the eye, especially because no physical effort was required. But streams of sweat were running down the sides of the warrant officer's face. No, it is not that easy to "push the button" on a modern ship.

Warrant Officer Vladimir Zhuravel', petty officer in charge of a team of torpedo gunners, was the most worried. In recent days he had been waiting for news from our distant native shores. The warrant officer knew how carefully communication time was used but he was sure the command would consider this important. Sure enough, the word passed from compartment to compartment: the warrant officer had had a son.

That made everybody happy. At such moments you cannot help thinking that it is not just the strong body of the ship that binds us together. Most of all it is the bonds of navy friendship, our common interests, the

difficult missions of a cruise, and our great love for our native land, where they are always concerned about us, thinking of us, and waiting for us.

But the unity of our crew can be seen even better in difficult situations. Vladimir Zhuravel' certainly remembers the surprise nighttime survival exercise held at the start of the cruise. His compartment got a low mark. Vladimir was ashamed to look the compartment commander in the eyes; he had not helped him in time. But he was an experienced submarine sailor. Lt Vladimir Kurakin himself did not collect himself right away and was unable to mobilize the men. Fairly experienced warrant officers V. Shtapakov and M. Saulin, when they learned that the "water entering the compartment" was just an exercise input, did not put out any special effort.

The result of the exercise upset the whole crew! After all, we were going to sea; you certainly cannot neglect survival drills then. Out of everything we said to each other then and all that we did I especially recall a talk Capt 3rd Rank-Engr Petr Dimov gave to the crew. He did not simply tell them of the need for high vigilance in the compartments and skillful work by emergency teams, he convinced them of it. Dimov related a story from the front, involving an M-174 submarine commanded by Capt-Lt I. Sukhoruchenko of the Northern Fleet. One man, Smm Mikhail Bayev, was able, really, to save the ship. The sub had struck a mine and received a puncture in the first compartment; not waiting for help, Bayev began fighting the gushing water. His actions were so quick and intelligent that the water's entry into the compartment was stopped and the ship was able to surface and return to base.

After this talk socialist competition for outstanding performance of combat training missions and standards, to measure up to the heroes of the front in every way, became more vigorous on the ship. Later in the cruise there was cause to become convinced that the crew was able to save the ship in any difficult situation and in battle. Such confidence raises spirits and enables even the commander to act more boldly and decisively.

And now too, at a complicated moment in the cruise, I saw and knew how each specialist on board was working, not just at the control room but in all the compartments, separated from me by bulkheads. I have confidence in every one of my subordinates.

The communication session was short. The sub headed for depth, continuing its ocean cruise. After a while, when the chance came, I went around to the compartments. The submariners were working smoothly and hard, as always. I saw how their faces were brighter, as if they had visited home. And how many good things each of them had to think over during these few minutes.

Submarine Hunts Submarine

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Sep 76 p 1

[Article by Capt-Lt P. Vakarov: "Underwater Duel"]

[Text] If one had counted how many times submarine commander Capt 3rd Rank V. Timofeyev came down into the control room and then went back upstairs during the period of less than 24 hours it would have been an impressive number. There was a lot to do before the torpedo firing. As usual, during preparations new problems arose on top of those that had been planned. All of them had to be resolved.

Only in the night did Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev get to "catch his breath." Putting on warm clothes he stepped out onto the bridge and faced into the fresh wind with a feeling of satisfaction: the ship was okayed to leave base.

In the firing area the sub went down deep, finally seeming to reach the realm of peace and quiet.

The infrequent reports and commands were given softly and took on special significance as a result.

The commander was thinking about the forthcoming battle. And that meant he was thinking about each of his subordinates, the ones on whom success would now depend. He visualized small details of the sailors' behavior which showed their morale and attitude, their readiness to fight the enemy.

Petty Officer 2nd Class G. Arkhipov was doing almost nothing. But this outward calm was very deceptive. If there were a change in the cruise regime the bosun would himself change instantly, responding to the work rhythm of the commander.

Not long before Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev had been thinking about taking an experienced bosun from among the warrant officers, because he did not have confidence in the beginning helmsman Arkhipov. It seemed that the sailor sensed this. He tried his hardest to prove the opposite. His diligence and persistence helped him and now, even though he is only in his second year and still has little experience, the commander would not want a different bosun no matter who was suggested! He has found the makings of great strengths in the young submariner.

That is how his subordinates grow before his eyes. There is nothing more pleasant for a commander than to see and feel this and to sense that you yourself are growing along with the subordinate.

Would the enemy guess, for example, that on this day the person preparing to fire was not a gunner tested by years of navy service but Lt V. Gubarev, a school graduate just one year earlier? But no matter how young the commander of the mine-torpedo section was, there was no question of his skill. He was gaining experience and wisdom from firing to firing, trying to be careful and thorough in everything.

It may seem strange, but the commander had noted this trait of the lieutenant in very unfavorable, for Gubarev, circumstances.

There was the case of loading the torpedo. Time was very short and the commander reminded his gunner of this. Lieutenant Gubarev immediately promised to finish all the jobs. But promises are only promises; he did not finish in time. It turned out that he had not prepared himself.

Even though it was very annoying to the commander he was not harsh with the lieutenant. He saw how Gubarev was suffering for his carelessness; this showed he took it very seriously.

The next day was Lieutenant Gubarev's birthday. Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev congratulated him and expressed surprise at how young the commander of section No 3 was. But then he immediately mentioned that the only members of the crew over 30 were he and the senior mate; all the other officers were very young.

And now this young, but already outstanding crew was to perform the last and most important firing of the summer training period.

The enemy sub had a similar mission and equal chances of victory. The victor would be the one would detected the other first, who made the calculations and battle maneuver and fired the torpedo first and most accurately.

Time passed, intensifying their anxiety. Perhaps the moment had already passed and the enemy had already determined the elements of movement of the sub and was going on the attack. What would the sonarman hear first: the even hum of the propellers of a ship which had not yet detected them, or a torpedo already launched?

How much seconds mean in this situation, in a duel. Only one can win, as they say. But the thing is that the most skilled one will win. Any submariner knows that and, of course, the commander knew it. Therefore Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev's thoughts were constantly searching for the answer.

The commander had not been pleased by the last firing, which the sub performed outstandingly. He, and his subordinates too, understood that they had been saved by circumstances only; the situation had shaped up very well for their ship. Thus, at the review neither the commander nor the other officers even mentioned the outstanding mark they had received. It rarely happens, but the score bothered them. And Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev was most concerned that no one begin thinking that a score of five can be received without working especially hard.

They moved toward a meeting, two submarines listening cautiously in the deep. They searched for each other, not racing the engines, to be able to move swiftly into a high speed attack when the time came. Everything was important in this underwater contest: the course chosen, the depth of submersion, the navigator's intuition, the skill of the sonarmen, and the commander's acumen.

"Propeller noise, bearing... distance..."

The report by sonarman Petty Officer 2nd Class V. Yakovina put an end to the blind search. The target had been detected. Once again Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev's crew had been "lucky." But this time the luck was deserved.

The alert signal roared, was answered by the noise of the sailors rushing to their battle positions, then again it was quiet in the control room. There was no bustling around, no superfluous queries or corrections (this is the kind of situation the commander likes best), and therefore the few minutes spent in battle seemed longer.

Now the commander was receiving data on the enemy from the navigator and the torpedo electrician. The chief of the radar service also reported right then. His data were the basis of the commander's plan. Captain 3rd Rank Timofeyev had already had numerous opportunities to see the great skill and precision of the sonarmen.

And once more, as so many times earlier this year, came the crucial, exciting, and always new moment of firing: the command "Fire!", the sound of the air, the light lurch of the sub. And then the sonarman's report that the target had been hit. This is the report a ship commander likes best of all.

Improved Use of Socialist Competition

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Capt 2nd Rank-Engr A. Kontiyevskiy: "The Ochakov's Victorious Miles"]

[Text] This time the Ochakov, an outstanding large antisub ship, had a short cruise, but every mile at sea was especially hard because the whole trip was really a running duel with a submarine and enemy aircraft. The hydrology of the depths did not favor the antisub sailors, the enemy sub operated cleverly, and the aircraft pressed their attack. But Captain 2nd Rank V. Shepelev, commander of the BPK [battle command post], wanted to believe that right then, in one of the final exercises of the training year, the crew would demonstrate its teamwork, strength, and skill.

Now the sonarmen reported contact with the target. Considering the situation we must say that Sr Lt V. Pavlov, commander of the group, and team leader Warrant Officer L. Kharaim surpassed themselves in securing maximum use of the capabilities of the equipment. This was not only a contribution by the sonarmen to the ship's forthcoming success, it was a call to all the other specialists in the crew to work with equal efficiency and skill.

On the Ochakov socialist competition, which is constantly underway among the battle sections, becomes especially active and sharp during training battles. It is then, in a situation of interaction and mutual assistance, that the personal training level of the individual specialists, the teamwork of subunits, and their ability to strive persistently for victory clearly reveal themselves.

The Ochakov had hardly begun pursuing the submarine when the enemy appeared in an air attack.

Now the main burden of battle shifted to the specialists of the radar service and the missilemen. They understood that in order for the ship to successfully handle its main mission of wiping out the submarine it would have to repulse the air strike and yet not lose the underwater enemy.

In everyday competition the work of missilemen and radar operators seems difficult to compare. But now, measured by the single criterion of success in battle, the comparability was obvious and convincing. And Captain 2nd Rank V. Shepelev noted with satisfaction that neither Sr Lt V. Sviridov's radar operators nor their old rivals the missilemen had any trouble while the air strike was being beaten off. Team leaders warrant officers V. Bukhal and V. Dashko, running the missile complexes, did not permit the slightest hitches in the work of personnel or equipment.

The commander understood that they had been helped in passing this test with honor by the skill of the crew, above all the skill of the specialists who had played leading roles in the ship's battle training actions.

When the results of socialist competition in honor of the 25th CPSU Congress were totaled up it seemed that one could only be glad: they had achieved every planned goal. But the ship command and party organization tried to explain to the men that it was too soon to beat the drums, let alone become complacent; the initiators of socialist competition in the Navy have their own, special measure. They do not allow the slightest weaknesses or unfinished points and, unfortunately, there were still some among the Ochakov sailors. In the last stage of socialist competition, for example, just five men became masters of military affairs on the ship; this was many fewer than outlined in the obligations. Yet each specialist with a high rating is not only the pride of the ship but also a sign of its enhanced combat readiness and greater confidence in victory.

Not everyone in the crew understood this well; they thought that there were more important things. Even some officers failed to show the necessary persistence. As a result there was no planned training of future masters. Training periods would be conducted in a rush during the last weeks before the tests. Mistakes were also permitted in training methodology. The primary emphasis was put on independent study by the men, but proper checks on them were not set up. As a result Warrant Officer V. Dvurechenskiy's poor preparation came to light just before the examinations and Capt-Lt-Engr V. Korovnichenko did not shine in professional skill either. And then when the new masters received official confirmation of their higher rating it turned out that not all subunits were proportionally represented.

After these problems and the factors which gave rise to them were revealed, there was a thorough discussion of the question of training highly rated specialists. The matter was discussed before the start of the summer training period among subunit commanders and at meetings of the ship party bureau and the Komsomol committee. The officers and warrant officers themselves had to weigh their own capabilities once more and determine who might be a candidate for the rating of master based on level of training, time of service, and moral and fighting characteristics. And they had to see that the best specialists were placed primarily in the leading specializations.

The crew took this mission very seriously. For example, six of the radar personnel set their goal of becoming masters. For the first time on the ship two sonarmen, Sr Lt V. Pavlov and Warrant Officer Kharaim, wrote into their obligations that they would win this honorable title at once.

Party and Komsomol activists now took an entirely different approach to training these specialists to become masters; so did the immediate superiors of the candidates. Special emphasis was placed on planning the training and insuring precisely organized, effective competition. More experienced specialists in the subunits gave the candidates all possible assistance. This clearly showed the common interest in the struggle for the honor of the ship.

Two subunits, the radar section and battle section No 2, challenged one another to competition for training masters. And since that time it has become the rule in both the radar service and among the missilemen to single out the results achieved by candidates for master when totaling the results of competition. The successes of the leaders were publicized and steps were taken to help those who were lagging behind. Special attention was devoted to every drill, training battle, and exercise. And it was here above all that the growth in the specialists' skill was observed.

Then came the present exercise. The large antisub ship Ochakov showed up well. The commander thanked the entire crew for outstanding work and particularly singled out the best of the best, the masters with combat ratings.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN NAVAL TACTICS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVESDA in Russian 21 Sep 76 p 2

[Letters to the Editor column by Rear Adm P. Romanenko and Capt 1st Rank V. Abchuk: "The Key to Victory"]

In a 980 word article, associate professor Rear Admiral P. Romanenko and professor Captain 1st Rank V. Abchuk, doctor of military sciences, respond to a query from V. Savichev, a young navy lieutenant, who seeks the opinion of naval scientists on the relationship between calculation, intuition, and visual estimation in modern sea battles.

[Text] A characteristic blip appeared on the guided missile boat's radar scope. The contact is an enemy cruiser at a range of 32 kms. The probability of detection is 99 percent.

The boat began a determined approach on the contact. The range rapidly decreased. Each 100 seconds brought them 2 kms nearer.

The attacker required precisely 100 seconds to identify the contact, to designate it a missile target, and to effect missile launching.

A foreign magazine thus describes an episode of modern naval engagement.

From even such a sketchy description one can conclude that we are faced with combat operations of a completely new character, not seen in past wars. They are based on missiles, electronic detection, target designation, and guidance systems with automated control features. It is most apparent that such combat operations must be based on qualitatively new tactics.

What are the characteristics of modern fleet tactics? How shall the ships make the complex calculations necessary to control their weapons and equipment in battles at sea? What part do the old, proven methods of visual estimation and intuition play in these calculations? As Lieutenant V. Savichev's letter shows, it is only natural that these questions disturb young officers.

The fact that naval tactics is an integral part of naval military science is well known. It includes theory, practical training and the conduct of battle as well as other facets of combat operations at sea. The scope of tactics includes a knowledge of objective principles, the nature of sea warfare and, based on this knowledge, the development of training recommendations and battle methods.

The appearance of nuclear missiles has radically changed the nature and conditions of naval warfare. Tactics has required that these changes be clearly understood, that the various elements of naval engagements be analyzed, not in an abstract manner, but with careful consideration of a probable enemy's tactics, weapons, and equipment.

It is assumed that the destruction of one or another enemy group can be accomplished much sooner with nuclear missiles than with conventional weapons. According to foreign experts, the fire power of a single nuclear ballistic missile submarine is the equivalent of all the ordnance expended during the second world war.

It is important to thoroughly understand and keep in mind the basic principles of tactics: surprise; the limited duration of combat operations; the close integration of all combat forces; the creation of strength superiority in selected areas; disposition in depth for building up strength in the course of battle, and others.

In contrast to past wars, modern naval warfare has become considerably more complex. For example, it is well known that when engaged in battle with a nuclear submarine, the commanding officer of an anti-submarine ship must constantly be concerned with contact classifications, analyses of water conditions, electronic countermeasures, defense against aircraft, mines, torpedoes, etc., while simultaneously concentrating his attention on sophisticated equipment for the detection and destruction of his target. Among other things, this demands sound mathematical calculations.

The use of special mathematic devices is a distinct characteristic of modern tactics. Quantitative methods for making tactical decisions are based on the special scientific discipline called operations analysis. Today, by means of operations analysis, the ability to make correct decisions, an ability which was formerly limited to a few especially gifted individuals, is now acquiring an objective basis and is becoming the common property of all commanding officers. This is the reason operations analysis is termed "the quantitative expression of common sense," and "the clustering of commonsense." Operations analysis is based on such various fields of mathematics as probability theory, mass service theory, statistical analytic methods, mathematical programming (linear, non-linear, and dynamic), network planning, games theory, systematic analysis and statistical decision theory.

A basically new feature of modern tactics in all navies is the fact that decision planning and decision making are inconceivable without the aid of computers.

In the episode at the beginning of this article, the boat's missiles were controlled by a special shipboard automated system. In this instance, an electronic computer makes up the heart of the system. It processes the data necessary for radar target acquisition, enhances target tracking, and controls missiles, gun mounts, and torpedoes.

It is important to note that when choosing, on a scientific basis with the aid of computers, the best means of conducting combat operations under complex conditions, the selection process generally proceeds from comparatively abstract results. This differs significantly from a choice based on the commanding officer's estimation or even one arrived at through calculations made without applying modern methods.

Nonetheless, visual estimations can be quite useful in the simplest situations. In fact, visual or simple mathematical calculations made personally by the commanding officer are, as a rule, based on a wealth of practical experience and skill acquired by him on each cruise and on each meeting with ships at sea.

For example, the commanding officer can always determine a contact's course through a visual estimate of its target angle and its true bearing. Further, when steaming in poor weather conditions which make it impossible to personally observe the contact, during the initial approach the commanding officer can determine the contact's target angle and course by 2-3 minute changes in its bearing. If there is a time interval, then the contact's closest point of approach can be easily calculated. These calculations enable a commanding officer to quickly assess the situation and take immediate action when conditions warrant.

Combining a broad application of modern computers with a commander's practical experience makes a more thorough and detailed analysis of a situation possible and facilitates proper decision making.

This means that combat effectiveness is significantly increased by an ability to work out and make optimum decisions through the use of computers, simple calculations and seaman's eye. Figuratively speaking, it can be stated that modern computer methods of decision making reinforce the mental capabilities of the commanding officer.

However, as was done in the past, modern tactics also resorts to decisions based on factors which do not lend themselves to precise quantification. The moral factor, political situations, psychological aspects, and the personal qualities of the commander must be kept in mind. Here, it goes without saying that an officer's possession of Marxist-Leninist methodology, his overall ideological training and the breadth of his political and military-technical views play a decisive role. Thus modern tactics is a monolithic fusion of exact and descriptive sciences, the intrinsic combination of quantitative methods of decision making and life's practical experiences.

The fact of the matter is that modern tactics, as a science, is very important, especially for the officer burdened with the duties of command. In applying to military matters the popular adage, "science is becoming a direct productive force," one can say that military science, if grasped in the proper manner, will become a military force. This applies fully to tactics as well.

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