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TANKMEN'S DAY ARTICLES

Party Role in Armored Troop Progress

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Marshal of Armored Troops I. Losik]

[Excerpt] Progress in the development of the armored troops as well as all of their battlefront victories have been inseparably linked with the CPSU. Thanks to the party's tireless concern for strengthening the defensive might of the Armed Forces, the armored troops have made a new qualitative leap in the post-war era. They have made great progress in technical equipment and they now have first-class equipment which reflects the war experience and the latest achievements in science and technology. Modern tanks have a high combat effectiveness thanks to increased fire power, armored protection and mobility. Today's tanks can successfully conduct combat operations, day and night, in various theaters of war, they can surmount underwater obstacles and can perform long-distance marches. They will remain an effective arm of the service both in nuclear warfare and also in conventional wars acting jointly with motorized rifle, assault, rocket, artillery and aviation units and subunits. The fire power, mobility and armored protection of these troops have rightly won for them the honor of being the main strike force of the ground forces.

Great improvements have taken place among armored personnel in the post-war years. Today's generation of tankmen have high general education and technical training combined with political maturity and ideological conviction. The tankmen back their allegiance to combat traditions by practical deeds and selfless, military toil. In this year's Kavkaz and Sever exercises they have demonstrated, under adverse natural and weather conditions, a growing skill in the use of combat equipment and weaponry, tactical maturity and high fighting efficiency and morale.

An increase in the effectiveness and quality of armored troop combat training is being achieved through the intense, creative efforts of commanders, staffs, political organs, party and Komsomol organizations, and by the continuous introduction into combat and political training

of the advanced experience of the top-notch units and subunits, and by finding new methods for maintaining and operating armored combat vehicles.

Joining in the socialist competition which has spread through the initiative of the fighting men, the tankmen have attained great progress in training during the current training year. In armored and combined units the number of master specialists, outstanding combat and political training soldiers, and excellent units and subunits is increasing continuously. There are many commanders who have proven to be skillful organizers of the training and education of their subordinates in each military district and in the group of forces.

The training of armored troop officers is constantly improving. The command, political organs, the teaching staffs of the military schools and the Military Academy of Armored Troops are being directed in their teaching and educational work by the directives of the 25th CPSU Congress and are striving to insure that the graduates of the VUZ's have within themselves a party spirit combined with a deep competence, discipline, initiative and a creative approach toward their work enabling them always to consider the socio-political and educational aspects of their everyday work among the troops. It will also make them sensitive to the needs and requirements of their subordinates and will allow them to serve as examples in their work and their lives.

This year a large group of officers--commanders and engineers--have graduated from military armored schools. They have been actively engaged in the work of training and educating personnel. The latest group of commanders and higher-skilled engineer-tankmen have successfully completed the Military Academy of the Armored Troops.

In observance of Tankmen's Day today, the fighting men of our Armed Forces assure the party and the government that they will selflessly improve their combat skills in the future and that they are prepared to carry out any tasks in defense of the achievements of socialism and communism.

General Reviews Tankmen's Development

Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 36, 6-12 Sep 76 p 8

Interview with General of the Army A. Getman

[Text] The name of General A. L. Getman was first noted in situation reports from the front during the days of the battle for Moscow. The last battle he participated in was Berlin. As the commander of an armored division and a corps, and as the deputy commander-in-chief of the 1st Guards Tank Army, he participated in many wartime operations against the enemy, and was honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and many other decorations. He was not involved solely with tanks during his military career--he began his service as a combined-arms commander,

and after the war he commanded military district troops and headed one of our most popular public organizations--DOSAAF, and he is presently devoting much of his energy to educating the rising generation by running the all-union military Zarnitsa sports games. However, our chat with him today concerns tanks and tankmen.

[Question] Andrey Lavrent'yevich, how did you become a tankman? Was it some sort of natural attraction or were you able to see a great future for this new branch of service?

[Answer] In 1932 I was one of a group of commanders who upon entering the Academy imeni M. V. Frunze were summoned and told: "You will study at the Motorization and Mechanization Academy of the Red Army." We did a left about face and proceeded at quick march to the new address. That is how I became a tankman.

[Question] When did your baptism under fire take place?

[Answer] In 1939 in Mongolia, on the banks of the Khalkhin-Gol River. By the way, there for the first time in the history of military science the massing of tanks was used for the deep envelopment and encirclement of the enemy's tactical groups.

[Question] And when did you participate in your first battle with the Germans?

[Answer] In November 1941. Perhaps you remember the episode in G. K. Zhukov's book "Reminiscences and Reflections." At the beginning of November 1941, Stalin called Zhukov and said that it was necessary to forestall the new German offensive on Moscow by strikes in the Volokolamsk region and from the Serpukhov area. The Supreme Command ordered that "in the Serpukhov area use Belov's cavalry corps and Getman's armored division." This was my entry into World War II. The division arrived from the Far East several days before this conversation which I have described and disembarked in the Podol'sk area. On 16 November we struck a blow toward Tula.

[Question] Tell us, which of the World War II operations was the most difficult for you? And perhaps the most complex?

[Answer] There were no simple and easy ones. Some very difficult ones, for example, were the first days of the battles in the Tula-Serpukhov-Kashira area of which I spoke. Also difficult, although in a different way, were the battles on the Vistula in August 1944. We then carried out an operation to encircle and destroy the enemy's Sandomirskiy group. As is generally known, the encircler is himself always in a semi-encirclement. There the Germans brought up considerable forces and struck at the base of our armored spearheads and almost completely cut off our 11th

Guards Tank Corps and the neighboring 8th Guards Mechanized Corps. This is how the "pastry puff" really appeared: in the center--the encircled Germans, around them--our units, then--the enemy encircling them and finally--his approaching 1st Ukrainian Front combined units straining in an outflanking maneuver. The corps' situation remained quite critical for several days. However, thanks to the steadfastness and high combat skills of the Soviet troops, the situation was settled in our favor. We opened the route to the Oder and further on to Berlin.

[Question] Let us turn now to the post-war era. In which direction has the development of the armored troops proceeded?

[Answer] There has been no decrease in the importance of tanks; in fact, their importance has increased. The tank has proven to be very durable against all types of weapons. It stands on its tracks firmly and it is not difficult to hermetically seal its body. Therefore, as in the past, tanks have been allotted an important place in the ground forces. Tanks have been improved very much. Their fire power has been increased, their armor has become more durable, and they have become high-speed vehicles. They now have totally new features. First of all, they have the capability for aimed firing while on the move thanks to a stabilizing device which provides a steady positioning for the weapon during the tank's movement over any kind of terrain.

[Question] Andrey Lavrent'yevich, lately the "tank-helicopter" question is being intensely discussed in the foreign military press. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] They often strenuously push any kind of novelty abroad and ascribe fantastic features to it. This is precisely what is going on now with the helicopter. No, I do not intend to deny the combat capabilities of rotary-wing craft. However, as long as ground armies exist, they will require a combat vehicle which has a combination of armor, fire power and maneuverability. And this vehicle is the tank.

[Question] In the post-war years you have participated in many exercises and maneuvers. What kind of impression did they make on you?

[Answer] The main impression was the conviction that the combat skills of our tankmen have grown. This is easy to understand; practically every tank driver has a specialized secondary or general secondary education, and many platoon commanders have a higher military education. In this new high-quality aspect of the contemporary tankman--his sharply growing skill, is one of the main sources of the immeasurably greater than ever combat power of our armored troops.

Growth of Armored Troop Strength

Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 Sep 76 p 3

[Interview with General of the Army I. I. Gusakovskiy]

[Text] Twice Hero of the Soviet Union General of the Army I. I. Gusakovskiy answers the questions of the TRUD editorial staff.

[Question] Please describe for us today's level of development of the Soviet armored troops. What is the source of their combat might?

[Answer] All of us remember General Secretary of the CC CPSU L. I. Brezhnev's speech at the 25th Party Congress in which he said that the Communist Party pays a great deal of attention to strengthening the defensive capabilities of our country and improving the Armed Forces. The combat might of the armored troops has also grown immeasurably in recent years.

I must say that the development of the armored troops is based on the latest domestic equipment. Modern views on the conduct of tactical operations are also being taken into consideration. When nuclear weapons and new and powerful anti-tank equipment appeared, some bourgeois military theoreticians started to say that the role of the tank was now insignificant. Experience has refuted these assertions. Armored and combined units have now become the main strike force of the ground forces, capable of completing the total rout of the enemy, carrying out the capture of his most important targets and consolidating the results of nuclear strikes.

Today's tank is a very menacing and complex combat vehicle. It has durable armored protection, cannons and other weapons with high armor penetration capability as well as increased mobility and range. The crew has been safely protected in the tank from nuclear shock waves, penetrating radiation and shell and mine fragments. The latest advances in electronics, radio technology and power engineering are being used in the design and construction of tanks. All of this allows our tankmen to perform long-distance forced marches and to conduct combat operations under any terrain conditions and at any time of the day or year.

The combat training of our tankers is conducted at very well-equipped ranges and in various classes where the latest training methods and technical equipment are used. Exercises are built which take into account the requirements of a modern combined-arms battle. Television and programmed trainers have become the usual means of combat training.

[Question] And now for some history. How were the tank troops born, what combat vehicles had Soviet designers created by the beginning of World War II?

[Answer] The birth and development of the Soviet armored troops have been inseparably linked with the name of Lenin. At the end of January 1918,

Tsentrobron', the central organ for directing all armored units of the Red Army, was formed. Only armored trains and motor vehicles were part of our arsenal at that time. Then in 1919 the decision was made, through Lenin's initiative, to organize, in a very short period of time, the production of domestic tanks. Large tank units, based on small armored detachments, began to be set up. They were equipped with the new types of tanks: T-26, BT, T-28, T-35. In the pre-war years, with the significant development of anti-tank artillery in mind, the outstanding Soviet designers M. I. Koshkin, A. A. Morozov and N. A. Kucherenko created the soon-to-be-famous T-34 tank. It had shell-proof armor plating, powerful weaponry and high maneuverability. Somewhat later, the creative design collective under the leadership of the prominent Soviet designer Zh. Ya. Kotin created the KV heavy tank. Here I must digress briefly. During almost all of my half-century of army service I was connected with the armored troops; I spent the entire war at the front and I will say with pride that no other army in the world had tanks equal to the KV and the T-34 in combat qualities and capabilities. Our T-34 was recognized as the best tank of World War II. It is no accident that it now stands in splendor on pedestals of honor in many of the cities of our country as well as in the capitals of our sister nations liberated by the Soviet Army.

[Question] In the war years you, comrade general of the army, commanded one of our illustrious armored brigades. Tell us briefly about its campaign record. How does the experience of the front-line soldiers serve the new generation of tankmen?

[Answer] The troops are now at the very height of their training. The combat use of armored troops in a future war, if the imperialists should unleash one, will have enormous importance. Therefore, the consolidation and creative use of the richest front-line experience of the Soviet tankmen occupy a special place in the combat training of the troops. During the past war I was fortunate to command the 44th Guards Tank Brigade. There are not many guards veterans in the ranks now. However, the combat history is continuing, and still alive are the remarkable traditions of our brigade which was later reorganized into the Order of Lenin Berdichevskiy Guards Tank Regiment, decorated with the Order of the Red Banner, the orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy, the Red Star, the orders of the Mongolian People's Republic Sukhe-Bator and the Combat Red Banner, the regiment imeni Sukhe-Bator.

In the savage battles with the German fascist invaders, the Soviet tankmen hardened the defenses of the ground forces, covered the disengagement of our units, bravely counter-attacked the Germans and broke through their defenses. I recall with what courage and determination the tankmen of the 44th Guards Brigade acted in the battles on the Ukrainian right bank. The tankmen were ordered to break through the enemy defenses and go on to the Dniester. The spring of the memorable year of 1944 was early, and the overflowing rivers became violent. A beautiful spectacle! However, we did not have the time to admire the scenery. The river had to be surmounted.

The decision was made to force a river crossing. Descending cautiously into the water at first, and feeling with its tracks this lowering into the river, the tank of the fearless Lieutenant Ivan Kravchenko moved to the other bank. Shortly afterwards the entire brigade was already waging battle in the heart of the enemy defenses. The crews of the "Revolutionary Mongolia" especially distinguished themselves in those battles on the Dniester. Our guardsmen passed through many of the most difficult ordeals of the war in tanks constructed at facilities in the Mongolian People's Republic. Then there were the battles for the liberation of the Western Ukraine, the headlong break-out to the West Bug and Vistula Rivers, and the battle for Berlin.

The courage and heroism of the Soviet tankmen in the years of World War II was of inestimable value to our motherland. More than 250,000 soldiers received orders and medals, more than 1,000 soldiers received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union and 16 were honored with this title twice. More than 100 tankmen became full bearers of the Order of Glory.

September is the time for the active combat training of our troops. It is conducted under conditions closely approaching real combat. There are arduous multi-kilometer marches over marshy woodland and mountainous terrain, and through deserts and permafrost regions. There are exercises in field firing, rapid attacks and in breaking through the enemy's in-depth echelon defense. And, of course, the forced crossing of large water obstacles as in the war years. However, the forced crossing today looks completely different.

The latest water crossing equipment, amphibious tanks, infantry armored fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers are in the arsenal of the tankmen. In short, a battle being waged on land can be shifted to water, on the order of headquarters, and this can be done so quickly and within such time periods as were undreamed of during the last war.

The Soviet tankmen greet their holiday with a high degree of patriotic enthusiasm produced by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. They confidently stand their battle watch in union with the fighting men of the other arms and branches of service and the armies of the countries of socialist cooperation.

Modern Armored Troops Described

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 12 Sep 76 p 2

[Interview with Colonel General V. Yakushin]

[Text] Tankmen's Day is being observed in our country today. In connection with this, the APN correspondent has asked the Chief of the Main Staff of the Ground Forces Vladimir Yakushin to answer a number of questions.

[Question] How would you describe the modern armored troops?

[Answer] First of all, I want to note that success in modern warfare is achieved by the joint and coordinated efforts of the motorized rifle-men, artillery, tanks, aviation and other arms of the service. Moreover, the armored troops are assigned the role of the main strike force. This has been determined by those combat properties possessed by tanks: their armor protection, mobility, range and fire power.

The importance of armored troops was most clearly displayed during World War II. They made a great contribution to the victory over the enemy. The power of armored and mechanized troops, their skillful use, the ability and valor of the personnel lent a crushing character to Soviet offensive operations, and maintained their high rate of development.

In the post-war period, particularly during the past decade, because of the scientific and technical revolution, all arms of the service have radically changed due to the introduction of nuclear and missile weapons and the assimilation of new war equipment. These changes have naturally also affected armored equipment, but the role of the armored troops--the main strike force of the ground forces--has remained as before. And what is more, it has significantly grown in modern warfare. The combat capabilities of the armored and combined units have increased many times. Today's tanks, with powerful artillery weapons and armor protection, an increased mobility and great range, make it possible to maneuver easily on the battlefield, to perform forced and sustained marches, and to develop an offensive with a high degree of momentum. Armored troops can pass through zones of various types of contamination at great speed and successfully carry out active combat operations.

The basis for the combat might of the armored troops is a combination or, I would say, a marriage of complex equipment and well-trained personnel. For you see, the most intelligent machine is capable of doing wonders precisely when a skillful person who knows his business is leading it into action.

The proportion of tanks and other armored vehicles in the combined-arms units has grown considerably. As a result, the striking power of these combined units has increased very much. They have become more mobile and the personnel are more safely protected from nuclear weapons.

[Question] What place is allotted to tanks in modern military doctrines?

[Answer] The appearance of any new type of weapon and combat equipment has always aroused a great amount of interest in its skillful and efficient utilization. Generally, all kinds of discussions regarding it have immediately been spread in the world press. Often different and, at times, conflicting opinions on the role of tanks in warfare have been expressed. Sometimes this has amounted to a denial of the

tank's leading role. For the first time they have begun to say that the invention of nuclear weapons has lowered its combat effectiveness.

However, not long afterwards, even the supporters of this opinion have concluded that tanks alone possess the greatest stability in mitigating the casualty-producing effects of a nuclear explosion, and their high survivability and mobility allow them to utilize best the results of nuclear strikes.

Especially sharp debates on the tank's role developed at the end of the sixties and beginning of the seventies when PTURS [anti-tank guided missiles] entered the armament of the armies of many countries. The fact that the modern PTURS with a hollow-charge warhead is capable of piercing any type of armor, has given birth, on the part of military specialists, to the notion that the tank was declining as a ground forces weapon. The appearance of fire support helicopters which can strike tanks from outside of their firing range has also influenced this. The opinion has been expressed that tanks will be stopped in warfare by a powerful anti-tank defense just as the infantry was stopped by machine gun fire in World War I. However, there is another view which holds that the mobility of modern tanks as well as the capability for their wide use will give them the necessary battlefield superiority in spite of a saturation of troops with anti-tank equipment.

Discussions on the possibility of using armored troops in wartime with new force have appeared in the world military press in connection with the October 1973 Mideast war. In this war, despite its local character, tanks and anti-tank equipment were widely used. As is generally known, several thousand armored vehicles participated in combat operations on both sides. The total loss in tanks (approximately 35 percent of their original number) was labeled astounding by one of the American journalists. All of this led several military specialists to conclude that "the tank no longer dominates the battlefield."

However, a subsequent analysis of the Mideast conflict along with the fluidity of combat operations has led the military theoreticians of many countries to recognize the errors in such a judgment. They say that, in their opinion, armored troops can be successfully used in all types of warfare and they are, and will continue to be, a most effective means for carrying out combat operations.

Soviet military science, despite the colossal power of nuclear weapons, does not make them the be-all and end all. It is unwise to give preference in modern warfare to any arm or branch of the service. Each arm, in fulfillment of its own particular missions, will direct its efforts toward achieving common objectives. Armored troops, as the main strike force of the ground forces, will rapidly press home an attack and in cooperation with the rocket forces, aviation and airborne assault forces will, in a short period of time, seize important regions in the rear of the enemy, thereby aiding in successfully accomplishing the set tasks.

[Question] What can today's tank do? How does it differ from its World War II predecessors?

[Answer] The modern tank has powerful weapons, armored protection from various weapons of destruction and high mobility. In all of these areas, today's tanks by far excel the armored fighting vehicles of the past war.

New devices help the crews to maneuver their tanks with confidence over any terrain and at any time of the day. It must be stated that the working conditions of the crew have now been very much improved. For example, in the past the driver had to exert great physical efforts when on the move, while now he is assisted by more modern means of control. There is also a series of other innovations significantly lightening the crew's activities.

In order to increase the fire power of tanks, heavier-caliber cannons with high shell flight speeds are being mounted on them, fire control instruments are being improved, and a special aiming rest is being made to provide a high target destruction probability over great distances on the first round.

[Question] What civilian professions do tankmen learn during their army service?

[Answer] Before talking about technical trades which soldiers acquire during their service careers, I want to say something about the role of the Armed Forces in educating the younger generation. Youths without any experience in life enter the army, many directly from the classroom, and they end their service careers as men who have already graduated from the school of endurance and discipline and have received technical and professional knowledge and political training. This important function of the Soviet Army was noted at the 25th CPSU Congress.

What is the modern Soviet tankman? If you are speaking about an officer, then he is a person with a higher engineering education, highly accomplished and with a wide mental outlook. This allows him to be a successful teacher and trainer of subordinates, competent at using war equipment, and able to utilize modern weapons perfectly.

Conscripted soldiers and NCO's have a secondary or technical secondary education in most cases. During their active duty they become masters of military skills--tradesmen. Many of them earn a qualification not only in their own specialty but also in allied ones. This enables them, when necessary, to be successful replacements for comrades who are indisposed or otherwise unavailable.

Those who have served in the armored troops can work successfully in the national economy as tractor and combine drivers and drivers of other tracked and wheeled equipment. Other civilian specialties obtained by the tankmen include repairmen, electricians, radio operators, maintenance people and others.

Former tankmen are working on the construction of the Baykal-Amur Railroad, the Kama Motor Vehicle Plant, on many construction projects, and at kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

CAPABILITIES OF TANKS OF THE FUTURE

Tallin SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 25 Sep 76 p 2

[Article: "The Tank of Tomorrow"]

[Text] A tank is a fully armored tracked vehicle with good cross-country ability mounting powerful weapons. Depending upon type, their turrets mount cannon ranging from 76 up to 122mm as main armament. Also, a tank has one to three machineguns. The tanks in several foreign armies mount nuclear weapons and guided missiles.

Modern tanks have equipment which provides them with the capability to operate under water and in contaminated areas. At present, night vision devices are usually used. Development of anti-tank means caused tank armor thickness to be increased to 100-220mm and the shape of hulls and turrets has been improved. Maximum speed of a tank ranges from 45-65 kilometers per hour. Depending upon weight, armor, and mission, tanks are categorized as Light (weighing up to 20 tons) with small- and medium-caliber artillery weapons, Medium (weighing up to 40 tons) with powerful weapons making them the main shock force of the tank troops, and Heavy (weighing more than 40 tons) having more powerful weaponry than medium tanks.

The combat qualities of modern tanks (fire power, armor protection, and mobility) dictated their role as the main shock force of the ground troops in battle.

Discussing modern tanks, we must not forget that Russian and Soviet scientists and designers played a significant role in their creation and in their more than half-century of development. Early in 1915, a tracked armored vehicle, the world's first tank, was built in Riga from a design by our countryman A. A. Prokhorovshchikov (Junior Captain D. Zagryazhskiy drew up a design for a self-propelled tracked vehicle as early as 1837!). And, on 15 September 1916, a combat vehicle called a "tank" appeared for the first time in the history of warfare on the battlefield near the River Somme in France.

Our designers in the Soviet Union created tanks unequaled anywhere in the world. The history of Soviet tank construction is marked by the T-34, the best series-produced tank of the Great Patriotic War period, the KV, IS-2, T-54, SU-76, and others.

However, the intensive obsolescence of tanks in the age of nuclear missiles stipulated the rapid development of armored equipment.

Just as before, the keynote for new tanks is fire power, mobility, and armor protection. In spite of all difficulties, each new generation of tank not only demonstrates the growing power of the gun but increased mobility and amazing armor durability. Now, nuclear weapons place even more severe requirements on these steel fortresses and designers have no choice but to satisfy them. What are they? What must the tank of tomorrow be able to do?

Apparently, it will differ little from the tank of today. There is no doubt, also, that the tank of the future can not escape having instruments and devices which protect the crew against radioactive fallout, chemical substances, and bacteriological materials. There also will be special equipment for underwater operation, infrared search and aiming instruments, and an automatic fire extinguisher system.

The man in tomorrow's tank will monitor the overall battle picture and operations required for aiming, selection of the round corresponding to the target, loading, and so on all will be accomplished for him by an automatic system. Casings which completely burn up when fired will appear and it is possible that they will be completely eliminated. Liquid projectiles will replace the powder charge.

Nor is the diesel long lived. Multiple fuel, gas turbine, or rotary engines can replace it. The shape of the tank of tomorrow will be even more improved to withstand the destructive properties of a nuclear explosion. The tank will become more streamlined with a low center of gravity. Attempts will as usual be made to build them lower, certainly expanding them in width and length (in the extant English Chieftain tank, the driver is in a semi-reclined position). The shock power of "flying" tanks will increase within the Airborne Troops. Amphibious tanks will be further developed.

In view of the fact that shells and PTURS [antitank guided missiles] penetrate any armor (even up to 400mm), there is a basis for stating that tomorrow's tank, moving to lighter weight category, will acquire as a result increased mobility, maneuverability, a large speed reserve, and will be armed with not only the long accepted cannon and machinegun but with missiles as well (they can destroy with 80 percent certainty a target at great range up to several kilometers). The tank will be studied with unequalled exactingness so that it can itself, with the first round, destroy the enemy on the battlefield. Certainly, heavy tanks will finally fade into the past, leaving only light and medium tanks in the inventory.

Regardless, tanks in the future also will be reliable "universal soldiers" everywhere and everywhere.

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CSO: 1801

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS AT MILITARY SCHOOLS FACE TASKS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 76 p 1

[Lead editorial: "The Important Tasks of Social Science Departments"]

[Text] The Communist Party and the Soviet Government show constant concern for the Marxist-Leninist education and ideological toughening of college graduates. New testimony to this concern was seen in the all-union meeting of the heads of social science departments at institutions of higher education, held recently in the Kremlin, and the all-Army meeting of the chiefs of social science departments and cycles of socioeconomic disciplines at military schools, which followed it. The recommendations and proposals worked out at these meetings offer new possibilities of raising the effectiveness and quality of training and ideological-educational work and greatly enhance the arsenal of means for influencing the process of shaping specialists at the institutions of higher education.

In recent times the departments of social sciences at the military academies, institutes, and schools have made marked progress in improving training methods and ideological-educational work. Greater attention is given to thorough study of Marxist-Leninist theory by the cadets and students and the content of social science courses has been enriched by the introduction of new principles and more thorough development of the methodological problems of military theory and practice into the social and economic disciplines. Criticism of the reactionary essence of bourgeois ideology and revisionism has become much more aggressive. Individual discussions, theoretical conferences, and scientific research papers are now a constituent part of the teaching methodology.

All these questions are being handled in conformity with present-day requirements by the social sciences departments at the Military Political Academy imeni V. I. Lenin, the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze, the Air Force Academy imeni Yu. A. Gagarin, the Kiev Higher Naval Political School, the Rostov Higher Military Command School imeni Chief Marshal of Artillery M. I. Nedelin, and many other military schools.

At the same time there are still unresolved problems in the work of social science departments and teachers. Some classes are purely informational. Modern technical equipment for teaching is not used well at some schools. Not all teachers take active part in scientific research work. In some

places creative discussions and debates are rarely held and criticism and self-criticism have not been developed well.

While accomplishing the tasks set by the 25th CPSU Congress, the social science departments should arm students and cadets with profound and solid knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory and instill in them a scientific worldview, communist convictions and consciousness, high moral-political and fighting characteristics, and a readiness to perform the complex and honorable duties of leaders and teachers of their subordinates. They must develop dialectical, creative thinking. Special attention should be given to studying the works of K. Marx, F. Engels, and V. I. Lenin and the documents of the CPSU and the International Communist Movement. A key area is studying the materials of the 25th party congress. To accomplish the tasks which now face the departments of social sciences it is essential to raise the ideological level of lectures, introduce active forms of conducting seminars more aggressively, make broader use of debate in them, conduct creative discussions of reports and reference papers to promote the development of independent thinking, the ability to defend one's convictions from the party and class standpoints, and to correctly orient oneself in the present-day ideological struggle.

A crucial task of social science teachers is to raise the effectiveness of ideological-political work with cadets and students in non-training time and to insure a comprehensive approach to the organization of all communist education in conformity with the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. Special attention should be devoted to improving military and ethical education of the cadets and students and teaching them an active posture in life, a conscious attitude toward military and social duty, and the personal responsibility of future commanders, political workers, engineers, and technicians for the permanent combat readiness of the units and ships.

In the scientific research work done in the departments there must be broader pursuit of comprehensive investigations of fundamental problems of Marxist-Leninist theory, the foreign and domestic policy of the CPSU, and the world revolutionary process and greater attention should be given to the issues of criticizing anticommunism and present-day bourgeois and revisionist theories. The efforts of social scientists should be directed to further study of the military theoretical heritage of V. I. Lenin, issues of party military policy, the fruitful work of the party to bolster the Soviet Armed Forces and build up our country's defensive capability, the Marxist-Leninist doctrine of war and the army, the problems of military economics, party political work, and the moral-political and psychological training of army and navy personnel.

Improving social science teaching and raising the effectiveness of methodological work by social science teachers depend in large part on their qualifications. The teacher is the central figure in the training and educational process. Teachers influence their students not only by the

sum of knowledge conveyed and its depth, but also by personal example, communist convictions, party attitude toward work, and high general and pedagogical sophistication. Therefore, high standards with respect to teachers' work and moral qualities should invariably be combined with party concern for the pedagogical growth of teachers. To achieve this there should be constant improvement of methodological work in the departments, systematic summarizing and active introduction of leading know-how, training in skillful use of technical teaching aids, and creation of optimal conditions for fruitful independent work.

The command, political agencies, and party organizations of military schools are expected to be working steadily to create an atmosphere of creative searching, high responsibility, and mutually high standards in the collectives of the departments. To a large extent the quality and effectiveness of classes, the level of Marxist-Leninist training of cadets and students, and the success of the scientific research and mass political activities carried out in the departments depend on the organizational activity of senior officers and political workers, their high principles and activism.

The tasks facing social science departments at the military schools are many-faceted and important. Unswervingly guided by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, struggling to implement them in practice, the social science departments are expected to make a worthy contribution to the cause of communist education and preparation of ideologically toughened, politically mature military cadres who are capable of training and educating military personnel and achieving a further increase in the combat readiness of our Armed Forces.

11,176
CSO: 1801

UNIT NEGLECT, MISHANDLING OF TECHNICAL TRAINING REVEALED BY CHECK

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Lt Col F. Semyanovskiy, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "The Fruits of Indulgence -- Reflections on a Check Training Period"]

[Text] Tank officers were demonstrating their technical training at this training period. The period was being conducted by a specialist from the armor service of the district. Before the period began I visited regimental and battalion headquarters and took notes on the officers' socialist obligations in technical training and their progress in them. The obligations were tough ones and the evaluations given for the results of the past months of summer training showed that they had been performed well. All the marks were "good" and "outstanding," not a single "satisfactory." Just one thing was not clear: the kind of training periods in which these marks were received and who awarded them. The record books contained no information about any check training periods conducted by the commanders and their deputies in charge of technical matters.

Therefore, I listened with particular interest as the leader of the check training period talked with Capt-Engr N. Sidorenko, deputy battalion commander for technical affairs. The umpire's questions, naturally, dealt not only with the layout of the tank but also the functional duties of the officer as envisioned by regulations. And these questions gave Captain-Engineer Sidorenko the greatest trouble.

"How many hours of technical training were allocated by the program for the summer period and how many periods have already been held?" the umpire inquired.

"Roughly, uh..." Sidorenko began uncertainly, then after a pause gave a number, then another, and then a third. Finally he admitted, "I don't exactly know."

"How many check training periods were you supposed to conduct and how many have actually been conducted?"

The captain-engineer answered the second part of the question only: he had not conducted a single check training period. It became clear that the deputy battalion commander for technical affairs was not performing his service duties fully at all.

One detail reveals a great deal: Captain-Engineer Sidorenko took on the obligation to receive only a "good" evaluation for technical training; in other words, he adopted a less difficult task than other officers in the unit. Why? What is preventing a specialist with engineering education and adequate practical experience who, by his arm of service, is expected to be the bearer of high technical sophistication, from mastering the equipment and weapons perfectly? What is preventing him from taking an active posture in the training process, looking deeply into the organization of competition, and checking regularly to see how well personnel are mastering the most complex and difficult topics of technical training?

I would think that senior officers would have asked Captain-Engineer Sidorenko these questions long ago. The party organization too could not have been uninterested, because only low demands with respect to himself and his subordinates prevent the officer from making a large contribution to accomplishing one of the chief missions of the training year: mastering the equipment.

But not once during the summer training period did the deputy battalion commander for technical affairs have to answer for his own personal training at such a check training period. Yet it is difficult to imagine the training process and socialist competition without check periods. The knowledge of other officers in the units was not checked thoroughly either. Then, in such a case, where do the evaluations in the records of fulfillment of obligations come from? They are, so to speak, taken out of thin air. One can see a pattern: if a comrade adopted higher obligations he is given higher marks. This is to create a seemly picture.

But in reality, as the check training period showed, the technical training of certain officers was far below current requirement and they did not achieve any success in socialist competition. This refers, in particular, to Sr Lt A. Bakutnin, Lts N. Korshak and V. Budnikov. They could not even expect a "satisfactory" evaluation. Month after month they had been given "good" and "outstanding" marks and, of course, this made them complacent and failed to inspire them to work hard.

For example, it turned out that Lieutenant Budnikov had a superficial knowledge of the tank. The officer tried to explain the gaps in his personal knowledge by the fact that he had learned a different kind of tank in school. But two years had passed since then. If truly high requirements had been made of the platoon leader's professional training, for example at similar check training periods, and if competition among officers in the battalion and regiment had not been organized in a

formalistic manner, Budnikov would surely have known the layout of the tank perfectly; incidentally, both last year and this year the lieutenant adopted the obligation of receiving the highest mark in technical training, but he paid little attention to fulfilling this obligation.

To be fair, we should note that competition among officers of the battalion for tactical and fire training was very well organized. In these instances results are summarized with precise data. But then in evaluating knowledge of the equipment the strictness and reliability are clearly lacking. The reason for this is likely to be that certain comrades in the collective believe that the commander does not have to know the equipment in detail because he has reliable assistants in the specialists of the technical services.

In such a situation the diligence of those officers who study the equipment with feelings of responsibility and affection are not properly recognized or stimulated.

Capt A. Luks gave outstanding answers to all the umpire's questions. The thorough and precise answers of Sr Lts A. Maksimov and Yu. Chekunov left good impressions. It was apparent that these officers were very impressed by the really profound check of their knowledge. The high standards of the leader of the training period gave these officers satisfaction. And by the way, these officers also showed themselves to be mature tacticians.

After the check training period I spent a long time thinking about the causes of the weaknesses in the technical training of certain battalion officers. I was led to conclude that in evaluating the degree of mastery of the equipment the collective is not always guided by the requirements of battle, that, to go further, they applied low standards and permitted indulgence and simplification.

The regiment began taking steps immediately to correct the situation by the end of the training year. But everything cannot be fixed up in a week or two. It is important to eliminate the very sources of the shortcomings in officer technical training and to take a real concern in using the mobilizing role of competition.

11,176
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POOR OFFICER TRAINING BLAMED FOR BATTALION'S FAILURE IN EXERCISE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Sep 76 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Shpin': "Calculations and Miscalculations"]

[Text] The motorized rifle battalion commanded by Capt V. Milyukov prepared long and thoroughly for this tactical exercise with field fire. Everyone understood that the mark received in the exercise would be very important in summing up the results of the training year and determining achievements in socialist competition.

Before going into the field the motorized riflemen announced that they would spare no effort to fulfill the obligations adopted and make the battalion first in the regiment.

The march and taking the starting position for the attack showed that battalion personnel had achieved a high level of combat teamwork and use the capabilities of the equipment skillfully. But then Capt V. Milyukov and company commander Sr Lt V. Denisov made mistakes which could not help being reflected in the actions of the collective: the battalion was late in reaching the line of attack. Senior Lieutenant Denisov had calculated the time needed to move up wrong. Although his plan took account of the nature of the relief and envisioned an enveloping maneuver during battle in the depth of the defense and when repulsing the counter-attack, the battalion in fact operated by frontal, straight-ahead actions. Captain Milyukov and Senior Lieutenant Denisov plainly underestimated the strength and capabilities of the opposing side, which resulted in unjustified losses.

It is risky, of course, to make conclusions and generalizations from one tactical exercise. But in this particular case, there were many things which persuaded us that the mediocre results were not accidental. Check training periods with the officers showed that the leaders of the battalion did not know the proper way to organize command training.

"We follow the principle of the commander teaching his subordinates," the regimental commander stressed during a talk.

This principle truly reflects the best way to train officers. It has proven its effectiveness. But there are some difficulties with realizing it in practice. In the given case the difficulties were very clear. The battalion commanders are roughly the same age as the company commanders. In terms of knowledge and practical skills, especially in organizing battle on the terrain, they themselves are in the formative stage and need real assistance from senior officers. To assign the training of company commanders entirely to the battalion commanders would just make their situation more difficult.

We were advised to look at the organization of command training in the battalion commanded by Capt V. Vasil'yev. We were told that it was a case of successful application of the principle of the leader teaching subordinates. A check convinced us that Captain Vasil'yev does indeed work a good deal with the battalion officers and does not spare effort in individual work with platoon leaders, company commanders, and staff officers. But in this battalion too we sensed that not much experience was being disseminated from above. The vigorous activity of the battalion commander was not always complemented by consistent and purposeful work by the regimental staff.

From Maj A. Linichenko, regimental chief of staff, we learned how groups of officers for command training are made up. "By service position," he explained. But it would seem more correct to take account not only of official position but also the officers' level of training. It is also advisable to define the days of command training strictly; this is particularly important for company commanders and platoon leaders. Unfortunately, this was not done.

An analysis of command training showed that no account is taken of the officers' knowledge and experience. This also leads to the sometimes unjustified choice of topics for the training period. Some of the questions which have been worked on at group training periods are far from the basic missions of the unit. In the concluding stage of the summer training period the situation was often simplified during short tactical exercises, command-staff exercises, and field fire. This did not inspire new officers to strive for creative ways to accomplish missions.

Some of these difficulties result from inadequate checks by the regimental command and chief of staff on the state of professional training for new officers. When approving the plans for command training periods they did not look closely at their content and their checks on the preparedness of the leaders was superficial. The regimental commander, for example, approved a plan for a short tactical exercise on a topic which required at least 6-8 hours to work through. Of course, there was nothing "short" about that exercise.

One cannot fail to note the monotony of forms of command training used in the regiment. During the last three months they have not had a single staff or radio drill or officer drill in controlling subunits. But these are exactly where commanders are especially successful in mastering the methods of collecting data on the situation, where they learn to give

missions to subordinates clearly and concretely. Short tactical exercises were also held irregularly and contained simplifications. Their topics, as already mentioned, were too complex and multifaceted. Many training periods were conducted without charts and maps.

All questions are important in command training. Still, there are some which should be emphasized. These are the questions of organizing battle and methodological training of new officers. Experience convinces us that it is advisable to hold a demonstration training period in the best company of the regiment before working on complex topics of tactics, fire training, and driving. It is also useful to operate the battalion medical point and hold tank firing drills against a tactical background, ending these activities with a summary training period for officers where appropriate recommendations are worked out together. When the regimental commander or chief of staff conducts these training periods personally he will also have an opportunity to share his own experience, support the initiative of new officers, and demand that they observe all organization and methodological recommendations.

Unfortunately, this method of improving the quality of the training process was not applied. Senior officers did not have the proper purposefulness in training and educating the new officers. The basically correct principle of the leader teaching subordinates remained a slogan, a goal.

In addition to study at planned training periods each officer, of course, is obliged to perfect his own education independently. Senior commanders and staff are expected to check this independent work. As we learned, however, Major Linichenko has an original view of this sphere of staff checking work. He believes that officers should work of self-education exclusively during the evening hours, outside the working day. Can we agree with this? Certainly not.

In many units new company commanders and platoon leaders are assisted in drawing up personal plans for independent training which take account of their regular workload and accumulated experience. Senior comrades are appointed to supervise them. This always produces good results.

At the exercise mentioned at the beginning of this article the motorized riflemen went out with a strong desire to fulfill the obligations they had assumed. They worked hard, militantly. But they did not achieve their goal. Their good intentions were not backed up by precise organizational work on the part of the officers. The new commanders lacked tactical maturity in the most difficult situations. They made miscalculations. And these frequent miscalculations in evaluating the tactical situation were the result of more general miscalculations in the organization of command training.

CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING IN TURKMEN SSR SCHOOLS

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 14 Sep 76 p 3

[Article by G. Strel'nikov, civil defense instructor, Chardzhouskaya Oblast: "This Is School Civil Defense Headquarters Speaking!..."]

[Excerpts] As we know, pupils are receiving civil defense training in all classes which are taking part in the "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" paramilitary games. A characteristic feature of this school year is the holding of comprehensive civil defense exercises.

Why do we bring up the question of holding comprehensive civil defense exercises? Because they constitute an aggregate of organizational forms and methods of combined training of supervisory and command personnel, headquarters staffs, services, units, and all civilian population categories.

Several of these experimental exercises were conducted in Chardzhouskaya Oblast during the last school year. Secondary School No 20 in the city of Chardzhou, where G. M. Slesareva is the school civil defense chief, produced particularly good results. Under the supervision of school deputy civil defense chief M. Ishankuliyev civil defense teams are currently being reequipped and brought up to strength, individual protective gear is being issued and inspected for proper operating condition. Simple devices are being fashioned for protecting the respiratory organs, and a number of other measures are being conducted.

We should note that the exercise should be preceded by considerable preparatory work. The school civil defense plan was revised and adjusted for this exercise. Civil defense teams held drills. Training facilities were established. A special issue of the bulletin-board newspaper was devoted to the exercise.

Finally the order came to evacuate the school. The evacuation committee, under the direction of V. S. Ilyukhina, performed smoothly. The evacuees formed up into a foot column, carrying along all necessary equipment and

supplies. Air raid sirens began wailing. "Attention everybody! This is civil defense headquarters speaking. Air raid!" the public address system barked. The alarm, however, did not take the pupils unawares. They all proceeded quickly and in an orderly fashion to the fallout shelter and to the school basement.

The culmination of the exercise was the performance of school teams in the "stricken area."

At the post-exercise critique S. A. Seregin, representative of the Turkmen SSR Civil Defense Headquarters, highly praised the performance of the participants in the exercise and noted that in the future they would have to improve methods of protection against modern weapons. Improvement depends in large measure on a correct comprehension of the importance of civil defense in the education of schoolchildren on the part of school principals and military officials.

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CSO: 1801

CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING IN TURKMEN SSR INTENSIFYING

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 3 Oct 76 p 3

[Article by N. Bakanev, Turkmen SSR Civil Defense Deputy Chief of Staff: "Glorious Path"]

[Excerpts] The 44th anniversary of civil defense in this country was celebrated on 4 October. Soviet civil defense has had a truly glorious history over the course of these years.

Between 1932 and 1961 it was called local air defense [mestnaya protivovozdushnaya oborona strany] and played a very important role in preparing for protecting the civilian population and those facilities of greatest importance to the nation's economy against enemy air attack.

The revolution in military affairs caused by the development of nuclear missile weapons and the threat of employment of these weapons against the nations of the socialist community, and against the Soviet Union in particular, demanded a sharp increase in the preparedness of the home front for protection against modern weapons. It became obvious that this task could no longer be performed within the framework of MPVO [Local Air Defense]. The fact is that MPVO measures were local in nature and that the MPVO system had at its disposal limited manpower and resources. There arose the need for an organization which would operate effectively and efficiently nationwide.

In order successfully to accomplish the new and extremely responsible tasks pertaining to protecting the civilian population, the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolved in July 1961 to reorganize MPVO into civil defense. This was not simply a name change. A totally new defense system was organized, which constituted a complex of nationwide measures. It encompasses training the nation's civilian population in protection against mass destruction weapons, improvement in the operational stability of enterprises and branches of the economy in time of war, for organization and conduct of rescue and emergency repair activities.

The civil defense headquarters and services in this republic, under the guidance of party organizations, have done considerable work to improve the defense capabilities of the civilian population. There has been a substantial improvement in the training of all categories of the civilian population in modern means and methods of protection against weapons of mass destruction. The level of training of command personnel is being improved year by year with the aid of republic and oblast training courses.

Civil defense is becoming a firm part of the daily activities of each and every work force. In civil defense nonmilitary organizational units, which are of various function, thousands of workers are laboring persistently to master specialized knowledge and are acquiring courage and tenacity. Many have amassed valuable experience and know-how.

In recent years such mass defense activities as Civil Defense Day have been held with increasing frequency. In the course of the festivities there are demonstrations of the preparedness of civil defense teams and services to protect against mass destruction weapons, with competitions between rescue teams, medical aid teams, and displays of equipment and protective gear. The value of these measures lies in the fact that they open up extensive opportunities for intensifying military-patriotic work and dissemination of civil defense knowledge.

Under peacetime conditions the nonmilitary organized units, called upon to combat natural disasters, are tested for strength and receive considerable training in courage. Such training and experience was acquired by the members of the nonmilitary civil defense units of the Turkmen SSR in combating natural disasters: during the earthquake in Ashkhabad, during the Chardzhou flood, and during the heavy rains in Ashkhabadskaya Oblast this last spring. These selfless efforts to save lives and property from natural disasters in various parts of the republic have received high praise by local party and soviet agencies as well as winning the warm gratitude of the population.

Many reserve and retired military officers, who possess considerable combat and life experience, are working in our republic's civil defense system. Many of them are combat veterans of the Great Patriotic War. They all give of their wealth of experience and knowledge to the noble cause of serving the people and the socialist homeland. For selfless labor and efforts to improve civil defense, by order of the USSR Civil Defense Chief, in the period 1971-1976 alone more than 100 command personnel have been awarded the "USSR Civil Defense Badge of Honor." Hundreds of activists have been awarded the "USSR Civil Defense Outstanding Performer" medal.

Civil defense personnel are stepping up their efforts to carry out the tasks assigned by party and government and are working persistently to raise the level of combat readiness of the civilian population. Each and every headquarters, training course and civil defense unit team, carrying out the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress, is striving to honor the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan with excellent success in accomplishing the tasks assigned them.

PREINDUCTION TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN THE TURKMEN SSR

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 8 Oct 76 p 4

[Article by A. Terent'yev, Military Commissar of the Turkmen SSR: "Worthy Recruits for the Armed Forces"]

[Excerpts] Pursuant to the Law on Universal Military Training which was passed in 1967, induction of young men into active military service takes place in this country twice each year. The time of the regular autumn draft call has arrived.

Implementing the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress, the toilers of Turkmenistan are making a worthy contribution toward meeting the targets of the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan. Considerable credit for these labor successes must go to our young people, including the future defenders of our homeland. Working at industrial enterprises and in kolkhoz fields, and gathering knowledge at educational institutions, induction-age young men are preparing themselves for military service in a serious manner, are learning the fundamentals of military affairs, are acquiring military technical specialities and are becoming physically conditioned.

Young men who have received good basic military training will be entering military service this fall. More than one-third of them have mastered various military specialties. The absolute majority of the new inductees are Communists and Komsomol members, while more than 70 percent possess higher and secondary education. The future fighting men are in good health, and the majority are GTO complex badge-holders and proficiency-rated athletes. All this is a result of the enormous economic and social achievements of our people and vivid evidence of considerable work expended on indoctrinating the younger generation.

Preparation of young men for military service is constantly improving. Modern training facilities have been established at many secondary general curriculum schools, trade and technical schools, and basic military training classes are being conducted at a high quality level.

Mass youth sports activity has significantly improved. The 11th Republic Sports Festival for preinduction youth on the Prepared for Labor and Defense program demonstrated the increased athletic skills of our future servicemen and a more serious attitude on the part of sports organization officials toward working on helping our young men meet the Prepared for Labor and Defense performance standards. However, the quality of badge-holder training leaves much to be desired; Komsomol and sports organizations must work harder in this area.

Medical care of preinduction youth is improving. The youth medical services network has expanded, and greater attention is now being devoted to clinic physical examinations, the treatment and prevention of illness. An important role in strengthening the health of our young men is played by summer military sports camps in all the republic's oblasts. This summer 500 youths were enrolled at these camps. There is no doubt that this positive experience merits approval.

In the cities, towns and villages of this republic constant attention is devoted to the ideological conditioning of young people. We cannot adequately express our thanks to the Armed Forces veterans, heroes of combat and labor, workers on the culture front -- all those who are devoting all their energies and their entire spirit to the noble cause of military-patriotic indoctrination of youth.

Recently a number of military commissariats in Ashkhabadskaya and Chardzhouskaya oblasts have set up well-equipped induction stations. Unfortunately this is not the case in Maryyskaya Oblast. And yet acquaintance with military service for every young man begins at the induction station, and it is very important that this initial contact be an emotional experience for the future fighting man, increasing his love and respect for his country's armed forces.

It is very important to make a strong effort to consolidate past achievements, to mobilize all resources for correcting existing deficiencies, to achieve precision in this fall's induction, to carry it out in strict conformity with the requirements of the Universal Military Service Law. A decisive role in this should be played by the personnel of military commissariats, for whom the busiest time of year is now beginning.

Draft boards are being formed in the cities, towns and rayons in order directly to carry out the induction procedures. This temporary but very important and prestigious government body is arranging for medical examination of our young men and is making the decision to induct them into military service and to grant deferments to certain young people. The membership of the draft boards includes representatives of party, soviet and Komsomol bodies, and experienced doctors. Unfortunately it sometimes happens that draft boards make serious mistakes. There sometimes occur violations of the provision in the law for granting a draft deferment for reasons of family status, to continue education and for other reasons.

There have occurred cases where young men have been inducted who are unsuited for military service by reason of health.

In order to ensure that such things do not occur, it is essential prior to the beginning of the induction process thoroughly to study the potential inductees. It is very important that inductees promptly submit to the military commissariat the requisite documents indicating education, family status, confidential reports from place of work and school, as well as party and Komsomol references for party and Komsomol members. There have occurred cases in the past where after the draft board had decided to induct a young man into military service, he or his parents have submitted additional documents justifying deferment. This merely complicates the draft board's work.

The creation of normal conditions for the draft board's activities should be provided not only by military commissariat personnel, soviet agencies and public organizations, but also by inductees, their parents, their relatives and friends.

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CSO: 1801

PREINDUCTION TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN THE LITHUANIAN SSR

Vil'nyus SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 15 Oct 76 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen S. Stychinskiy, Chief of Staff, Red-Banner Baltic Military District: "Well-Prepared Youth for Military Service"]

[Excerpts] Soon the fall induction of young men into active military service will begin. Notable is the fact that it will be occurring at a portentous time, illuminated by the bright light of the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress. The congress offered high praise to the Soviet Armed Forces. CPSU Central Committee General Secretary L. I. Brezhnev stated in his keynote address: "... The Soviet people can be confident that the fruits of their productive labors are being reliably defended."

Educated, ideologically and physically conditioned young men possessing basic military knowledge and trained in a military technical specialty are now joining the ranks of the armed defenders of the homeland. This is a result of constant concern by the Communist Party and Soviet Government for comprehensive development of the younger generation and its military-patriotic indoctrination. These are fruits of the large job being done by local party and soviet bodies as well as Komsomol organizations to prepare young men for military service.

Under present-day conditions every serviceman should possess an excellent general education and technical knowledge, for from the very first days of his military service he must possess such qualities as efficiency, discipline, resoluteness, courage, fearlessness, and readiness to carry out the assigned task with precision and on schedule in the most complex situation.

A primary position in the system of training and preparing future defenders of the homeland is occupied by their military-patriotic indoctrination. V. I. Lenin attached great importance to this item.

Carrying out Lenin's behests, the Communist Party and Soviet Government devote constant attention to military-patriotic work among youth, viewing

it as a general party and government task, for it aims at ideologically conditioning future servicemen, developing them into ardent patriots of the homeland who are ready at all times to stand up for its interests with honor.

The high discipline shown by servicemen inducted from the Lithuanian SSR, their flawless performance of their military duty and total dedication to the CPSU and Soviet Government indicate that proper attention is being devoted to military-patriotic indoctrination in this republic.

Thanks to measures being taken by party agencies in this republic, military-patriotic work is assuming an ever broader scope and is becoming more effective. It is gratifying that throughout the republic active part in this is being taken by Komsomol organizations, DOSAAF committees, military commissariats, civil defense headquarters, organizations of the Znaniye Society, school faculty and staff, war and labor veterans, reserve and retired officers and general officers. Cultural establishments, artist organizations, radio and television, and the press are also involved.

Definite success has also been achieved in recent years in other types of training and preparation of young men for army service. Take, for example, training in the fundamentals of military affairs. The organization and quality of basic military training of youth in many rayons, cities and towns, as well as schools fully meet the specified demands. Thanks to correct supervision on the part of ministries and government agencies as well as the efforts of general-curriculum school and technical school supervisors and military training instructors, all young men have the opportunity to learn military affairs.

Considerable credit for the success which has been achieved in basic military training must go to school military training officers and training facility chiefs. The overwhelming majority of these are reserve officers. Many are decorated combat veterans. Many military training instructors and training facility chiefs have earned a solid measure of respect.

Work is also being conducted in this republic on preparing military technical specialists for the army and navy. An adequate network of school DOSAAF organizations has been set up for this purpose, and trade schools have been designated where one out of every four boys has the opportunity to learn a technical specialty. Also praiseworthy are measures being taken by the republic DOSAAF and trade-technical training committees to improve training facilities and to maintain a low turnover among training staff personnel. It is also gratifying that direction of the training process is improving, that modern training methods are being adopted, and that the methods skills of teachers and instructors are improving. All this helps achieve better quality in training military specialists.

Today great significance has been acquired by the development among youth of the military-technical sports, training of young people to meet the performance standards of the Prepared for Labor and Defense program.

I must say that a large percentage of the young men inducted into the armed forces from the Lithuanian SSR possess such qualities. From their very first days in the service they are able to stand up under physical and psychological loads, and they display skill and staying power. These qualities of course did not come by themselves. They are the result of work by physical education instructors, efforts by sports organizations, schools and enterprises.

Military commissariats occupy a special place in youth training. At the initiative of military commissariats problems pertaining to youth military training are regularly discussed by rayon party bodies, at executive committee meetings and sessions of the soviets.

Commanders, political officers, party and Komsomol organizations of military subunits give active assistance in preparing future defenders of the homeland. Enlisted men, noncommissioned officers and officers take part in setting up facilities, work at military sports camps, give tests at DOSAAF schools, and demonstrate military equipment.

This purposeful work has a positive effect on moral-political qualities, educational level, the technical and physical training of our youth. This is attested by the fact that every year more highly-educated young people enter the Armed Forces from the cities, towns and villages of Soviet Lithuania. In the last five years the number of inductees with higher, secondary and incomplete secondary education has increased by 8.8 percent, the number of Komsomol members by 4.6 percent, the number of proficiency-rated athletes by 16.6 percent, and the number of inductees who have met Prepared for Labor and Defense performance standards -- by 5.5 percent. In recent years the cities of Vil'nyus and Kaunas as well as Kaunasskiy Rayon have been providing the most highly-prepared young inductees.

At the same time we should note that not all young men are as fully involved in training as is specified by the Universal Military Training Law and by party and government decrees. Some inductees do not receive secondary education, have not been involved in regular physical culture and sports activities, do not participate in defense study group activities, and do not have the opportunity to learn technical specialities. Many such young men enter the military from Mazheykskiy, Shvenchenskiy, and Rokishkskiy rayons.

In order to improve the quality of youth preparation for induction, it is necessary to step up ideological-political, internationalist and military-patriotic indoctrination. "Firm establishment in the minds of the toilers, particularly the younger generation," states the Central Committee Report to the 25th CPSU Congress, "of the ideals of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, pride in the USSR, in our homeland, willingness to come to the defense of the achievements of socialism has been and remains one of the party's most important tasks."

This task obliges DOSAAF and trade-technical training committees as well as training organizations to make every effort to improve the quality of training military specialists. Accomplishment of this task will be aided by the manifestation of genuine care and concern for improving the training process, improving physical facilities, furnishing schools with new equipment, including programed learning devices.

It is important at the present time to utilize comprehensively the entire arsenal of forms and means of increasing the effectiveness and improving the quality of efforts to prepare good new recruits for the army and navy. There is no doubt whatsoever that purposeful actions of initiative will produce additional positive results. And this will lead to a further strengthening of the defense might of our homeland.

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