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MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

ROLE OF MILITARY COLLECTIVE IN POLITICAL UPBRINGING EXAMINED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 85 pp 2-3

[Article by Col V. Manilov under the rubric "Social Facets of Military Organizational Development": "The Collective and the Individual"]

[Text] The military service has an enormous and multifaceted influence on the individual. It significantly accelerates the shaping and development of many remarkable qualities essential to the builder and defender of the socialist society. The party and the state, Comrade M.S. Gorbachev noted in the Central Committee's Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress, have striven and continue to strive to see that "our army is a school which develops civic responsibility, courage and patriotism."

This indoctrinational effect is realized by means of a system of formative factors produced by the socialist nature and the great political purpose of the Armed Forces of the USSR. The military collective has an important place within that system. It is the main material bearer of socialist collectivism in the army and navy.

Socialist collectivism is an absolute condition for the flowering of the individual. By systematically and increasingly more fully uniting the interests of the society and the individual, socialism is making collectivism the definitive norm for social relations and the most important factor in the shaping of the new man.

This fully applies to the Soviet Armed Forces, of which the military collective is the main social cell. Its socialist essence is manifested in the inviolable social and international unity, in the community of interests and ideals and in the comradely interaction, mutual assistance and cooperation of the fightingmen. At the same time, relations within it are governed by the requirements contained in the military regulations and by the communist moral standards.

The modern Soviet military collective has a number of distinctive qualities. They can be broken down into two groups: a general social group and a specific, strictly military group.

The first group includes qualities of the military collective as a social cell. They reflect the features of the Soviet society's social makeup today. They include the military collective's high level of political and general culture, its

wealth of spiritual interests, its educational level and developed awareness of its patriotic and international duty. As a rule, the military collectives are multinational. And relations within them are the relations of friendship and fraternity inherent in the Soviet people, a new historical community of people. With respect to the second group, it embraces features of the military collective as an active combat unit designated for conducting warfare--that is, the military organization proper. In this kind of organization V.I. Lenin valued particularly flexibility of methods and forms of struggle, unity of will and iron discipline. These interrelated qualities are particularly important in the contemporary sitaution.

Without going into each of these qualities, we shall underscore the increased role of military discipline today. It is a result of the increased complexity of the defense missions, the teamwork required for the operation and employment of the modern weapons and combat equipment, the enormous complexity and the resulting extensive differentiation of the military work and of all military activities. We need only to recall that today, according to foreign studies, there are more than 2,000 technical military specialties, which is more than 12 times the number in existence during World War II and five times more than existed in the '50s. Naturally, this has drastically increased the dependence of the total aggregate result of the military work--combat readiness and in time of war, victory in combat--upon the joining of efforts by all the servicemen.

The need to constantly maintain the troops and naval forces at a high level of combat readiness adds exceptional profundity and substantiation to the military collective's influence upon the individual. This need ultimately accounts for the military collectives' extremely intensive work schedule. It is dictated by the real threat of imperialist aggression, by attempts by the USA and NATO to use the arms race on Earth and in space to destroy the military parity and gain superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Pact nations.

The resolution passed on the Central Committee's Political Report at the 27th CPSU Congress defines doing our utmost to enhance the combat readiness of the Armed Forces and indoctrinating fightingmen of the army and navy and all Soviet people in a spirit of vigilance and constant readiness to defend the great gains of socialism as one of the most important tasks of the party, the state and the people. Commanders, staffs, political organs, party and Komsomol organizations of the army and navy direct all of their work toward the accomplishment of this task.

The far-reaching, beneficial processes initiated at the April 1985 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee are presently being developed in the Armed Forces and throughout the entire nation. They essentially consist in steadily intensifying the practical orientation of the training for the troops and naval forces. Improvement of the style and quality of the military cadres' work, intensification of the training and indoctrinational process, making the most efficient use possible of available means, reserves and possibilities, the universal strengthening of military discipline and the development of the military collectives' creative potential are helping to achieve this goal.

The general orientation established at the April Central Committee Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress toward the development of initiative, improvement of the practical organization of the work at the sites and the enhancement of every individual's responsibility for the asigned area is substantially increasing the military

collective's possibilities for influencing the individual. This is an objective process, since its sources lie in the improvement of the socialist way of life of our Armed Forces, an inseparable part of the Soviet society. It is obvious, however, that no matter what powerful possibilities are accumulated in the military collective for influencing the individual, these possibilities are not realized automatically, not on their own, but as a result of daily, systematic and purposeful work by commanders, political workers, party and Komsomol organizations.

Equally obvious is the fact that without a knowledge of the collective's possibilities, without the ability to develop, increase and fully utilize them, effectiveness cannot be expected in this work. This is all the more true today, when the matters of radically readjusting the awareness and psychology of the people and developing in them an understanding of the acuteness and the critical nature of the time we are living in and the conviction that they must work in the new manner have been placed onto the agenda.

The realization of the military collective's indoctrinational potential in the interest of accelerating the development of the individual essentially means activating one of the most powerful reserves capable of producing a perceptible effect with respect to further enhancing the state of the Armed Forces and fundamentally improving military discipline. In the most general terms, the "mechanism" for putting this reserve into effect involves increasing the collective's responsibility for the individual and the individual's responsibility for the collective, in fact and not just in words. This will inevitably force every serviceman to acquire a thorough knowledge of and precisely carry out his official duties, motivate him to conduct an umcompromising struggle against shortcomings and vitalize his stance in life, which will improve the end results of each individual's work and ultimately lead to a qualitatively new state for the subunit, the unit and the ship.

The collective influences the individual with its very moral atmosphere, with its demanding attitude toward the individual and its concern for him, with the responsibility which it assumes for each of its comrades. The range of the collective's means of influencing the individual includes party and Komsomol meetings, as well as general meetings of the servicemen, socialist competition, various forms of amateur activities engaged in by the people, athletic activities and so forth. The active and purposeful use of these means significantly improves the effectiveness of the indoctrinational work.

A study of the practices of outstanding officers has shown that one of the main "secrets" of their success lies precisely in their ability to rely upon the military collective. Naturally, the concentrating of the main effort on shaping, uniting and indoctrinating the collective and putting its capabilities into effect is in no way a rejection of constant and painstaking individual work. On the contrary, it in fact presupposes the latter. Organically linking the indoctrinational praxis and the real conditions under which the specific individuals function increases its effectiveness. It is also apparent, however, that the greatest results are obtained in the development of good moral qualities and fighting efficiency in the fightingmen precisely when a united collective of strong moral health has been established in the subunit and unit and on the ship.

One sometimes hears individual officers allege that when the commander or chief relies on the military collective, their authority suffers. A fundamentally erroneous opinion! The officer-and-leader's authority is not a personal matter and not a privilege issued with the position. Authority is acquired in vital daily work with the people. And along with ideological maturity, moral purity, competence and professional skill, this requires the ability to organize things at the practical level. Both the development of the collective's creative potential and the mobilization of that potential for the accomplishment of the tasks involved in enhancing the combat readiness, strengthening discipline and establishing a sober way of life depend to a crucial degree precisely upon the commander.

Close, practical communication between the commander and the party organization plays an enormous role. It is the political nucleus and the solidifying force in the military collective. The closer this communication, the greater are the commander's authority and the weight of his decisions and actions, the more active is the party's influence upon all aspects of the collective's life and work, and the more beneficial is the atmosphere for the development of the individual.

The matters of correctly defining and establishing the role and place of the sergeants, increasing their independence and responsibility, creating and indoctrinating an energetic aktiv, and shaping correct public opinion are also among the key elements in the officer's work as the leader of a military collective. Socialist competition, when organized and directed on the proper level, is a tested means of stimulating the military collective's creative energy.

Focused and painstaking daily work requiring not only knowledge but also restraint and patience, strictly speaking, means relying on the collective. It is returned many times over, since it provides the commander with indispensable, extremely effective tools for training and indoctrinating subordinates, for producing and purposefully developing the qualities of the Soviet individual in them. No less important is the fact that when the collective is relied upon, any negative features in the individual fightingmen are revealed with greater promptness and certainty, and the very possibility of negative occurrences is avoided.

The sole commander indisputably has the crucial role in organizing the military collective and activating its enormous possibilities for shaping and developing the best qualities in the individual. The commander has complete authority. It takes on the force of a law when embodied in an order. The enormous weight of that authority stems from this. Enormous responsibility for its correct application also stems from this, however. And finally, the extremely profound influence of the holder of this authority, the sole commander, upon the military collective and upon each of its members also stems from this.

In the light of this, it would seem to be of fundamental importance to stress two factors. In the first place, interaction between the collective and the individual is not a one-way street. The dialectics of the process occurring in real life are such that there are continuously functioning, two-way relationships in which absolutely every member of the collective is involved. In the second place, despite the total uniqueness of the sole commander's status and place in the military organization, he can only perform his role if he is not extrinsic to the collective but closely linked to it with the inseparable, vital ties of common interests and concerns.

There is a wise military saying that what the commander is like determines what his subordinates are like. It has been tested by fire and validated by time. The commander's individuality is the gauge by which the subunit, the unit or the ship is judged--and this is perfectly justified--and the real gauge of the development of the fightingman's individuality. It was a natural thing during the Great Patriotic War for the fightingmen to proudly emphasize their membership in a military collective, referring to it with the commander's name. And do today's fightingmen not take the same sort of pride in calling themselves Aushev, Soulyanov or Pimenov men after the commanders of subunits which have made a name for themselves in the daily combat training or in the performance of their international duty?

The officer-and-leader's subordinates emulate him and follow his example in all things. If he sets an example in the performance of his military duty and is a model of organization and discipline, courage and valor, if he is neat and sharp, if his demandingness and his relations with subordinates show mutual respect, mutual understanding and spiritual closeness with the men, all of this has a most positive effect upon the moral climate in the collective.

The officer is required to back up his official authority with the authority of his own personality. He himself must show good upbringing. The successful functioning of the entire aggregate of interrlations of the collective and of the individual is directly dependent upon this. And it is of fundamental importance for the officer to be extremely demanding both of himself and of all members of the collective.

A commander or chief's insulation from subordinates, a lack of vital communication between him and the collective, can clearly not be eliminated simply with instructions "from above." The officer himself can and must accomplish this. In order to do so, he must take the only correct position, the party position, in all of his indoctrinational work. Its essence was defined by V.I. Lenin. He demanded that party-mindedness amount to more than just words, that it be expressed in deeds, and stressed the need to live in the thick of things, to know the moods, to know everything, to understand the masses and earn their absolute trust by treating them in a comradely manner. The fact that these demands of Lenin's are still valid today was confirmed with new force at the 27th CPSU Congress.

Being close to the people is not just a certain manner of action. It only becomes a fact when it is warmed by a natural movement of the officer's heart, becoming a constant internal need. Only then is there a reciprocal impluse in the hearts of his subordinates. Only then do the collective's internal relations become charged with vital force and provide powerful stimuli to all-around development of the individuality of the fightingman--citizen, patriot and internationalist.

The military collective is that miraculous crucible in which military skill and a high level of technical equipment, ideological steadfastness, organization and discipline in the personnel and their loyalty to their patriotic international duty become embodied in the remarkable qualities of the Soviet fightingman's individuality, in his specific actions, and produce that solid alloy which is the combat capability of the Armed Forces. This capability becomes an active factor within and through the collective and is realized in the combat readiness of the troops

and naval forces. The more united the military collective, the more effective will be its influence upon the individual, the more successfully it will accomplish the tasks facing it, the stronger will be the military discipline among the personnel and the better will be the combat readiness of the army and navy.

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

REVIEW: KATASONOV ON U. S. MILITARY POLICY, BUDGET

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 1, Jan 86 pp 90-91

[Review by R. Faramazyan, doctor of economic sciences, professor, of book entitled "SShA: voyennaya politika i byudzhet" [U. S.: Military Policy and Budget] by Yu. V. Katasonov, Moscow, Nauka, 1984, 192 pages]

[Text] An important feature of this book is the fact that in it U. S. military policy is traced in large measure through the prism of the military budget. This approach is justified in our view. The author is correct when he writes that when characterizing the military aspirations of imperialism the language of budgetary figures is quite often more persuasive than any statements by state and military figures.

Examining the basic objectives of U. S. military policy in close relationship to the military budget, the author emphasizes that in the dynamic of Pentagon military expenditures there is a tendency toward their continuous increase. Analysis of the structure of these expenditures shows that particular attention is devoted to increasing those types of expenditures which most facilitate the creation of a qualitatively new material base for waging war.

The five-year military program adopted by the Reagan Administration provides for modernizing all components of the weapons arsenal and increasing the capability for U. S. military intervention in events taking place in any region of the world which is declared a sphere of American "vital interests." Over many years particular reliance has been placed in U. S. military plans on achieving technical military superiority and on creating qualitatively new and ever more destructive types of weapons.

The U. S. plans a substantial increase in its nuclear missile arsenal. It plans to develop and deploy MX intercontinental ballistic missiles (the cost of the program for their development and production is assessed at $21.5 billion); Trident-I and Trident-II ballistic missile submarines (a program cost of approximately $53 billion); and B-1B strategic bombers (a cost of more than $28 billion). The U. S. intends to produce new weapons systems: Midgetman small, mobile ballistic missiles. Development of the Stealth strategic bomber is in full swing.

Along with this, as is clear from the monograph, the development and production of conventional weapons -- ships, aircraft, tanks, armored personnel carriers, etc. -- occupies an important place in the preparations of the American militarists. The policy of the Washington administration toward the militarization of space and implementation of the "Star Wars" program represents an extreme danger to the cause of peace.

Another virtue of this book is the fact that it examines not only the influence of military policy on the budget, but also shows the reciprocal influence of economic factors, and most of all the budget, on the formation of American imperialist military policy.

Striving for military superiority, the author indicates, American imperialism at the same time is pursuing another objective in the arms race. It is attempting to exhaust the USSR economically and undermine the material basis for its socio-economic development and military power. However, these attempts by the U. S. ruling elite, which Comrade M. S. Gorbachev has noted repeatedly of late, are illusory and doomed to failure. The USSR has sufficient economic capability to prevent the overturning of strategic military parity between the USSR and the U. S.; to maintain the defense capability of the country at the necessary level; and simultaneously to ensure the fulfillment of plans adopted for her economic and social development.

Despite all of its merits, the work is not without some omissions. Sometimes it interprets the relationship between military policy and the budget too directly and simplistically. In our view the author in a number of cases exaggerates the impact of budgetary difficulties, "financial realities," on changes in U. S. policy and strategy. The assertion that the Reagan Administration's military program is unrealistic financially and economically sounds too categorical. Unfortunately, in places the book is overburdened with details and informative material. At the same time, certain important problems were not sufficiently illuminated. For example, the main reasons for irregularities in the growth of military expenditures, in particular the influence on the budget of the cyclical course of events in military technology and in the accomplishment of major military programs, are not shown.

Overall the monograph is an important, useful and necessary work. It makes it possible to understand more thoroughly the characteristic traits, peculiarities and adventurism of the militaristic policy of American imperialism; its growing threat to world security; as well as Washington's destructive approach to the problems of arms limitations. The book is interesting and will undoubtedly attract the attention of the military reader.

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

DISCUSSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 1, Jan 86 pp 36-39

[Article by Col A. Galash, Inspector, Political Administration, Order of Lenin Leningrad Military District: "The Privilege to be in the Forefront"]

[Text] Little time remains until the opening of the 27th CPSU Congress. Each day the political and labor activeness of the Soviet people increases and their contribution to solving the extensive tasks facing the country grows greater. This is substantially facilitated by the country-wide discussion of pre-congress documents. In party, labor and army collectives they are viewed as clear and well founded future actions in the struggle to accelerate the country's socio-economic development and strengthen its defense might.

The party meeting to discuss drafts of the new edition of the Party Program and the CPSU Charter with proposed changes took place in such a businesslike and creative atmosphere, which was directed toward increasing efforts to improve combat readiness and strengthen discipline, in the subunit commanded by Lt Col N. Ostapchuk. The report by Maj A. Tolmachev, the political officer, and the addresses by Communists noted that the draft new edition of the CPSU Program is a mighty document of our day, which shows everyone that the CPSU is creatively developing Marxist-Leninist teaching about Socialism and Communism. The new edition embodied the dynamism and forward striving which are inherent to our party and were most vividly expressed at the April and October 1985 CPSU Central Committee plenums.

The party attributes particular importance under modern conditions to ensuring that Communists set examples in work, public life and the observance of our high moral standards. After all, a CPSU member is always in view; people compare themselves to him and take an example from him. And to a large extent the results of the labor of collectives depend on how completely the vanguard role of Communists is displayed. Therefore, it is entirely understandable that, in discussing the section of the draft new edition of the Program in which it states that the CPSU will make every effort to develop thoroughly the defense capability of the Soviet state, the meeting participants focused attention on the personal examples set by Communists in military training and on strengthening military discipline. Examples were recounted from the life of the subunit in confirmation of how important this is for combat readiness.

Not so long ago this collective was among those lagging behind. The unit command personnel were very disappointed about the professional training of officers, crew training and the state of military discipline. And this had been the case for a number of years. But then new people joined the subunit: the commander, his deputy for political affairs and other officers. First of all the new leaders and the party organization directed their efforts toward ensuring that Communists set the example in training. They encouraged initiative and creative activeness and supported and assisted those who strove to improve their professional skill. And such party members as S. Semenov, S. Polyakov and V. Morchuk became a true bulwark of the Communist leaders. Demanding toward themselves and principled in assessing what they had achieved, they were never satisfied with matters as they were, and continuously supplemented their ideological and theoretical knowledge and increased their military training level. Both soldiers and sergeants compare themselves to these Communists. And the good evaluation which the subunit achieved in the results of the last training year is a natural result.

However, the successes could have been more substantial, had it not been for the inertness of individual Communists who, as the speakers noted, had still not comprehended their full responsibility to the collective for their deeds and actions. On this score Capt V. Sinitsyn was sharply criticized. Working without particular fervor and passive in social life, he pays little attention to his own theoretical and professional training. Looking at their commander, the soldiers also display no particular fervor in training. As a result, the collective commanded by this officer earned only a satisfactory mark in the annual inspection and today occupies last place in Socialist competition.

"Running throughout the draft new edition of the CPSU Program is the thought that the party will be constantly intensifying its demand on each of its members for their attitude toward their duty and for maintaining the honorable and pure cast of mind of a party member, and will assess him according to his deeds and actions," stated Lt Col N. Ostapchuk in his speech. "I believe that this is correct and very timely."

Those Communists who spoke noted with approval that the draft CPSU Charter with its proposed changes will also increase demands upon party members. They are charged with the duty to be examples of a creative attitude toward work and high self-discipline, and to conduct a decisive and uncompromising struggle against such intolerable phenomena as eyewash, protectionism, localism and suppression of criticism. A Communist is obligated to act based on statewide interests and in so doing to display a feeling for that which is new, readiness to take responsibility for himself, a desire to learn to work better and to be able to take into account the political mean of his activity and to be demanding toward himself and others. And it causes alarm when some comrades take offense at a critical word and display immoderate zeal in defending a falsely understood "soldier's honor."

This fact was brought up at the meeting. At one time serious shortcomings in political indoctrination work were permitted in the collective commanded by Sr Lt S. Kofman, as a result of which there were flagrant violations of military discipline. The commander was most of all at fault for the shortcomings. Several times at party meetings it was proposed that Kofman report on how he

was fulfilling the requirements of the Party Charter, but the secretary never resolved to bring up this question for discussion by the Communists. Is it worthwhile, he said, to judge the Communist severely? He does his work, and as far as the mistakes, well who doesn't make mistakes. Only after the intervention of senior comrades was Kofman called to strict accountability and was the situation corrected in the collective entrusted to him.

It was proposed at the meeting that the provision of the draft new edition of the CPSU Program which discusses the need everywhere, from top to bottom, to observe strictly Leninist principles for the selection and assessment of cadres according to their political, professional and moral qualities, and to more fully take into account public opinion, be supplemented by the following words: the party organization bears full responsibility for the affairs and deeds of each of its members.

Unfortunately, we still frequently see Communists closing their eyes to the fact that their party comrade is working rather lazily or is committing serious deviations in his personal behavior from the standards of Communist morality.

"I inquired of one of our Communists," noted Maj A. Tolmachev, "why he never had a principled conversation with Lt Zyuzin, who was clearly working inadequately to improve his ideological and political knowledge and was not displaying particular zeal in his service, and in response I heard: 'Why should I do this? He has his conscience and I have mine.'"

That's right. And, of course, those Communists in the subunit who express their negative attitude toward such frames of mind are correct. In our day the essence of the new level of demands upon the party member is that his deeds alone, no matter how good, are not enough. He must transfer to his comrades his experience and ability to work with people.

The Communist is a part of the party, and any blot on his conscience, any unseemly deed, as life shows, is fraught with moral losses. And what if a Communist, moreover, is also a commander and has people entrusted to him whom he must train and indoctrinate? The harm to our common cause here is even hard to predict. After all, people compare themselves to him, take their examples from him and imitate him. This is why the discussion at the meeting about the responsibility of a Communist for his service and conduct also had yet another important aspect: the example of the Communist leader.

It is not very frequent, but it still happens that some Communist is promoted to a leadership position and the party organization is unaware. The senior comrades have not consulted with those who serve with the candidate for promotion and, naturally, know very well the capabilities of the man and his professional and moral qualities. This sometimes results in mistaken promotions. Thus, today Officer V. Sezonov is receiving much criticism for his lack of initiative in work, poor knowledge of equipment, lack of ability to lead his men and nonfulfillment of the requirements of the CPSU Charter. Administrative proceedings were instituted against him and he received party punishments. Recently the party organization again imposed a strict punishment on him.

The speakers asked with bitterness: How much can one tolerate? The Communist clearly is ignoring the requirements of the charter and gives far from a good example to his subordinates at work. The party organization has spent more effort on the indoctrination of Sezonov alone than on all the Communists in the subunit.

In connection with this the following opinion was uttered. The provision of the draft new edition of the CPSU Program where it is stated that it is necessary to combine trust toward cadres with demandingness upon them and increasing their personal responsibility, it should be supplemented with the thought that PARTY ORGANIZATIONS MUST TAKE PART DIRECTLY IN WORK WITH CADRES. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO POSE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THE ISSUE OF RELEASING FROM HIS DUTY POSITION A COMMUNIST LEADER WHO HAS SULLIED THE HONORABLE AND PURE IMAGE OF A PARTY MEMBER.

The formation in Communists of high moral qualities and a sense of responsibility to the collective for setting the example in training and conduct is an important and difficult matter. And it is most of all necessary to engage in this in the collective in which the man works and the party organization where he is on the rolls. This, as Sr Lt R. Muratov and Sr Warrant Officer V. Morchuk stressed in their speeches at the meeting, is the insistent demand of the time. Therefore, the addition made to the draft of changes to the Party Charter which states that a Communist who commits a misdeed answers for it first of all to the primary party organization, and in the event that he is brought to party responsibility by a higher organ the primary party organization is so informed, is an exceptionally urgent addition, which comes from the very heart of our life.

Expanding the rights of primary organizations and the trust which will be expressed to them will indisputably require greater boldness and political maturity from the party collectives themselves. This is an obvious truth. I recall it because I am still, unfortunately, confronted with instances when some senior commanders try to keep a Communist who has committed a misdeed from a strict conversation with him by his comrades in the party organization. His conduct is investigated at a higher level and the Communists remain ignorant of what measures were taken. This is motivated by alleged concern about the authority of the leader.

"We must hope," emphasized party organization secretary Capt S. Semenov in his speech, "that the new provisions of the charter, and most of all the substantial expansion of the rights of the primary party organization, will not only take in hand the violators of party and military discipline, but will also dampen the ardor of their protectors. And, in order to give greater acuity and principles to the ninth paragraph of the draft CPSU Charter with its proposed changes, I suggest that a thought be added to it that a party leader who protects a Communist who has compromised himself is to be brought to strict party accountability."

The meeting ended. It was one of many at which Communists are discussing the pre-Congress documents and checking their deeds against the requirements of the party. And they clearly recognize that difficult tasks face the primary

party organizations and every Communist. It is very important that today the demands upon party members are being increased. This is because, in this demandingness the CPSU is following a firm behest of Lenin's: "If we Communists wish to teach and direct others, we must begin with ourselves. In other words, a Communist must always be in the forefront, at the spearhead of the attack and in the hottest sector. This is his only privilege."

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ARMED FORCES

MILITARY LEADERS ATTEND CONFERENCE ON MILITARY-PATRIOTIC ART

PM060848 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Jun 86 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Meeting with Figures from Literature and the Arts"]

[Text] On 3 June the USSR Ministry of Defense and the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate held a meeting in Moscow with leaders of the country's cultural organs, mass news media, and creative unions and also representatives of the creative intelligentsia working in the sphere of heroic-patriotic themes. Tasks of the military-patriotic education of Soviet young people and Army and Navy servicemen in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress were discussed.

The meeting was opened by Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. He emphasized the important role played by art, literature, and the mass media in educating active and highly conscious citizens of the socialist society, reliable defenders of the gains of socialism.

The meeting was addressed by V.V. Karpov, secretary of the USSR Writers Union Board and chief editor of the journal NOVYY MIR; F.T. Yermash, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Cinematography; B.M. Terentyev, secretary of the USSR Composers Union Board; B.Ye Yefimov, secretary of the USSR Artists Union Board; G.M. Markov, first secretary of the USSR Writers Union Board; M.I. Tsarev, chairman of the Board of the All-Union Theatrical Society; V.I. Popov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting; Professor A.V. Karaganov, doctor of art criticism; Ye.V. Zaytsev, USSR first deputy minister of culture; poet Ye.A. Yevtushenko; P.V. Ignotas, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; and V.S. Markov, editor of the newspaper MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA. They talked about the work of writers, composers, movie makers, artists, and journalists producing new works devoted to the heroic path traveled by the Land of the Soviets, the combat history of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the day-to-day military labor of the present defenders of the motherland. It was noted that our literature and art actively influence people's minds and hearts and contribute to the molding of their consciousness, emotions, and will--of everything that makes up the human factor. This is why the contribution of the exponents of literature and the arts to the cause of the education of the skilled, staunch patriotic serviceman ready for exploits for the sake of the beloved fatherland must become even more substantial.

Those assembled were addressed by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

The meeting was attended by Yu.P. Voronov, chief of a CPSU Central Committee Section; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; and A.N. Soshnikov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee Section.

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ARMED FORCES

LT GEN POPOV DISCUSSES MILITARY DISCIPLINE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Gen Justice B. Popov, Chief Judge Advocate, under the rubric "The Commander and the Law": "Without Letups or Compromises"]

[Text] The strengthening of discipline, organization and order in all areas of state and public life is an urgent dictate of the times and one of the absolute conditions for the successful fulfillment of 27th CPSU Congress decisions. Organization and discipline are important components of the combat capability of the Armed Forces. The social function of the military service as a school for the development of civic responsibility, courage and patriotism is only fulfilled in a situation of regulation order. All of this is prompting us to reconsider what has been accomplished from the standpoint of the modern requirements and to work out new approaches to the organizational and indoctrinational work and more rigid criteria for assessing the results.

Unfortunately, we have to begin this discussion with truisms. No legal infraction comes about all of a sudden: it has specific causes and conditions. And it always occurs in an atmosphere of irresponsibility and lack of demandingness toward people. It occurs when so-called "petty" deviations from the established order do not evoke alarm in those in charge, in the party and Komsomol organizations.

Not so long ago Privates O. Karmadonov and S. Kitayev committed a crime and were convicted by a military tribunal. How could such a thing happen? It came out in the investigation that they had previously violated regulations governing relations among servicemen, sometimes before the eyes of members of the daily duty detail, junior commanders and Komsomol activists. Senior Lieutenant V. Smolin, the company commander, had to know about this (if the service was organized according to regulations, of course), and political workers and unit staff officers who had visited the company to check on regulation order could not have failed to notice it (if they wanted to!). The symptoms of the disorder were not taken seriously, however, and regulation order was not established.

Almost every time one investigates a case, one can see that the crime did not have to happen, had the commanders and chiefs demonstrated great demandingness at the right time, had they concerned themselves with maintaining regulation order in the subunit and with the daily life and the needs of their subordinates. Just what prevents people from being demanding, from soberly assessing a situation? It is

a basic fact, after all, that there is a precondition, frequently visible to even the naked eye, for almost every incident. It is sometimes not at all easy to establish even the obvious in life, however. This is hindered by stereotypes in thinking, adherence to the old work procedures and methods and an entrenched system for assessing the effectiveness of this or that activity.

We know that not very long ago at all, military discipline was frequently assessed according to the number of penalties meted out. Even today some chiefs never tire of "presenting" at all sorts of conferences the names of those platoon, company, battalion and even regimental commanders who react acutely to infractions of order. But the names of those who rarely use their disciplinary authority--even to the detriment of the work--you will find among the outstanding. This harmful practice has inevitably led and continues to lead to indulgences, gives the "green light" to new infractions of the law and regulations, and accustoms certain commanders to be crafty or even to engage in outright deception. Last year, according to the reports of a number of judge advocates, far from all of the officials found to have covered up legal infractions were brought to strict discinplinary accountability as demanded by the USSR Minister of Defense. Furthermore, Colonel V. Klinovskiy, Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Portnov and certain others were promoted to higher positions almost immediately after their participation in such cases had been established.

We do not have the right to hush up such things. Deception should be called deception, and there should be no fear of publicizing such matters. Assessing the performance of commanders and political workers solely on the basis of papers, reports and figures belongs to the past. Superior chiefs, political organs and party organizations should support precisely those officers and generals who do not fail to respond to a single infraction of discipline and skillfully combine measures of persuasion and compulsion.

It is gratifying to see that the new approach to this important matter is already producing positive results. For example, inspections by the judge advocate's offices in a number of military districts and groups of forces have shown that many commanders are being more demanding and are responding to legal infractions in strict accordance with the laws and regulations. I do not believe we need to be disappointed if accountability has suffered in some places in the process. This only means that we are no longer ignoring infractions which we accepted in the past.

Yes, a readjustment of work style and methods is not a simple matter. I would perhaps single out as one of the main elements in the process, a heightened sense of responsibility on the part of every individual for the assigned section and a willingness to accept responsibility for decisions. What we frequently have, however, is a situation in which there would appear to be "people responsible" for order, but that order is not apparent. I am referring to the appointment of additional duty officers in certain units. Such "supplements" ligitimize, as it were, the lack of responsibility of those who are expected to maintain order. The commander is required to take all necessary steps to establish order, of course. This includes even appointing individuals to the regimental daily duty detail who are not listed in that capacity in the regulations. When he does so, however, the commander must be aware that he is taking an extreme step, which objectively removes the duty men and orderlies from the performance of their duties and seriously diminishes the role and authority of the junior commanders. Where this has

been understood (and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has described this experience in detail more than once), the preconditions for many incidents and particularly for crimes have disappeared together with the "responsible officers."

At the beginning of this year officers from the Main Judge Advocate's Office worked in units of the Turkestan Military District. They noted that during the past year the forces had received so much written information on matters of improving the service performance of the troops from district headquarters and directorates, it was extremely difficult even to study it all. Most important, however, it contained few specific instructions on exactly what needed to be done to prevent specific infractions. And many of the causes of these infractions were easy to spot: failure to adhere to the daily schedule, the removal of personnel from their training, poor living conditions and so forth.

A lot of paperwork is a sure sign of bureaucratism and can stifle any vital matter. When there are large quantities of paperwork coming in and going out, this leads to a casual attitude toward papers which are truly important and extremely necessary. In some cases the priority of paperwork over organizational work is established also by the work style of various commissions which visit the units. The gathering of various kinds of negative facts sometimes becomes the most important thing to them. They are easy to gather. But how can they be eliminated? How can the people be helped on the spot? How can the causes of the shortcomings be revealed? And how to help eliminate them...? A commission headed by Colonel A. Massanovskiy, Deputy Chief of Communications for the Ground Forces, recorded numerous shortcomings in the organization of the service and the living conditions of troops in training subunit "X," for example. It recorded them and then departed. And the shortcomings remained just as they were.

The personal examples set by those in charge are highly important with respect to strengthening legality, law and order in the units and on the ships and to indoctrinating the servicemen. Hundreds of eyes are watching them, and every act of one in charge--good or bad--has far-reaching moral effects. We still find cases, however, in which superior chiefs, political organs and party organizations are not demanding with respect to those who violate the regulations and laws, those who do not conduct themselves fittingly in the service or in their personal lives. At the end of last year N. Mamul, a worker in a position of responsibility in the Northern Fleet's Rear Services, was convicted of abusing his service position. Reports of his unfitting conduct had been coming in for a long time, but no importance was attached to them either in the fleet or in the Main Navy Staff.

Special mention should be made of those who are fond of using their service position for personal purposes. Today, I believe, we should include in their ranks not just those who confuse state funds with their own. Great material and moral damage is done by those who squander the people's means, turn out defective work and engage in padding. The poor management of Lieutenant Colonel K. Aubergerov, for example, resulted in numerous losses. One of the construction projects was delayed inordinately by the absence of planning and estimate documents and the most simple mechanical devices. There were not even any concrete mixers or jackhammers at the site!

There is no such thing as petty matters with respect to the use and storage of materials and other supplies or in the record-keeping. We cannot accept losses

of clothing or food, the unsatisfactory use of housing or the overconsumption of electric energy, fuel and water. All of these matters are precisely regulated by our laws. This means that every infraction of the requirements for conservation and thrift must be carefully studied and when necessary, investigated, and the guilty parties must make restitution for the loss and bear the prescribed accountability. And this should be done without regard for rank or title. Such is the demand of the times and of our party documents. Such was the atmosphere at the 27th CPSU Congress, to which I happened to be a delegate.

The party raised to the level of a program task the development of good civic-mindedness in the individual, respect for Soviet laws and the rules governing socialist communal life, intolerance of all infractions of legality and a willingness to take an active part in the protection of law and order. In order to achieve this we need to establish the audit as part of the indoctrinational means, to make better use of the legal aktiv of garrisons and units, and to improve the legal training of cadets and students at military educational institutions. There is a great deal to be done to strengthen communication between commanders, political workers and staffs and agencies of the judge advocate's office, because the work of fundamentally improving discipline and strengthening organization and order must be carried out in all areas. It must be done without letups or compromises. It must be based on increased demandingness by the commanders. It must be done with active participation by the army and navy community.

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ARMED FORCES

MILITARY-PATRIOTIC EDUCATION SEMINAR ENDS

PM030817 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 May 86 First Edition p 5

[Report by Colonel N. Kalmykov: "Raising Patriots"]

[Text] The all-union seminar on the theme "The 27th CPSU Congress on Improving Soviet People's Military-Patriotic Education" has ended. It was organized by the All-Union "Znaniye" Society, the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, the Komsomol Central Committee, the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee, the USSR Civil Defense staff, and the Soviet Committee of War Veterans.

In the final stage of the seminar the participants--lecturers of the All-Union "Znaniye" Society and DOSAAF activists--listened to reports and lectures by M.S. Kapitsa, USSR deputy foreign minister; Colonel General D.A. Vulkogonov, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Colonel General of Aviation A.N. Katrich, deputy commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact states' Joint Armed Forces; Colonel General V.P. Novikov, USSR Civil Defense deputy chief for political affairs; D.M. Gvishiani, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan, and others.

The seminar approved practical recommendations on intensifying propaganda of the Soviet Armed Forces' glorious combat traditions and improving the Soviet people's military-patriotic education.

A.N. Soshnikov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee section, and other senior CPSU Central Committee officials participated in the seminar's work.

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ARMED FORCES

GEN BELIKOV ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF WARRANT OFFICERS

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 9, May 86 pp 46-53

[Interview with Carpathian Military District Commander, General of the Army Valeriy Aleskandrovich Belikov by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Baranets under the "Firmer Discipline--Higher Readiness" rubric: "Procedures Laid Down by the Regulations: Subunit Warrant Officers' [starshina] Responsibility"; date and place not specified]

[Text] A conversation with General of the Army Valeriy Aleksandrovich Belikov, commander of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District.

A high level of organization and military discipline among the troops are most important items of the armed forces military potential. Personal responsibility for strengthening them are borne by the commanders and leaders of all ranks, including the subunit warrant officers, who are called on to exert a daily influence on the procedures laid down by the regulations for the military personnel. Serious attention is devoted to matters of selection and training of warrant officers in the Red Banner Carpathian Military District. Here, positive experience has been established for the training of this group of command personnel. Our correspondent, Lieutenant Colonel V. Baranets, met the commander of a military district and asked him to answer a number of questions concerning the effort directed at raising the role of the warrant officers of the subunits in strengthening military discipline.

[Question] Comrade general of the army, you participated in the work of the 27th CPSU Congress, where economic and social questions were discussed side by side with the problems of strengthening discipline in our society. The congress pointed out clear-cut guide lines in the work directed at resolving this task of state importance. In our army conditions, organization and the procedures laid down by the regulations are regarded as the most important factors for raising the units' and subunits' combat readiness. As a man who has devoted many years to service in the armed forces, you no doubt well know how great is the subunits warrant officers' role in strengthening the established regulations. What is your point of view on this matter?

[Answer] The 27th CPSU Congress paid special attention to the personal responsibility of personnel for the status of discipline, and increased the demands on those who cannot place an assigned sector in the prescribed order

or do not take the established demands into consideration. This is a real and timely demand and our duty is to implement it. Concern over the strengthening of the procedures laid down by regulations and increasing the warrant officers' roles in this are component parts of the work being carried out by everyone in the okrug for the strengthening of discipline. We are now making a major effort so that each leader--be he a commander, political worker, staff officer, service chief, or warrant officer--will be able to gain specific results. The most characteristic features of the restructuring of this most responsible sector is the sharp reduction of empty debates, unfruitful meetings, formal reports and on the other hand, an intensification of individual and organizational work with people, and exactingness towards them. We are trying, as the 27th CPSU Congress demands, "to concentrate on a practical organization of the matter." Recently we succeeded in reducing the number of discipline violations.

In the strengthening of the procedures laid down by regulations, an important place is alloted to the subunit warrant officer. His plays a major role in the lives of the troops, and there is a wide array of duties entrusted to him by the internal service regulations. The overall order and morale in a subunit largely depend on the warrant officer and his political, practical and moral qualities, as much as how competently he executes his duties.

Firm military discipline and strict procedures laid down by regulations in the subunit where there is a well-prepared, exacting and job-motivated warrant officer, who is able to work with people, renders all-around assistance to the commander in training and teaching the soldiers. There are many such warrant officers in the okrug. I will talk, for example, about subunit warrant officer, Senior Warrant Officer K. Ishchuk. He has served in this capacity for more than 20 years. He treats his duties conscientiously. If one goes into the company's area, it is immediately obvious that the warrant officer has done many things. The internal order is a model, the soldiers have a irreproachable external appearance, the everyday room is assiduously equipped and the weapons are stored as required by regulations. Ishchuk is a demanding man, but he is also sincere and considerate. People are drawn to him, and they share their happiness and sadness. To know what is going on, as they say, is extremely important to the warrant officer. In this way it is easier to influence the troops' morale and avoid a negative event. The senior warrant officer works closely with the commander, the political worker, other company officers and party and komsomol activists, and devotes a great deal of attention to the sergeants, and is supported by them. Ishchuk's great merit is that there has not been a major discipline violation by the troops in a long time.

However, there are many facts of another type. They say, that where a subunit warrant officer executes his duties of organizing the internal order poorly and does show concern for the soldiers' living conditions, their external appearance, and himself does not observe the regulations' requirements, the discipline will be low. There is a very direct dependence. In due course in one of the aviation squadrons, there were several major discipline violations in 4 months. When this was examined, it became evident that the subunit's personnel's living conditions were in order, and appropriate control for organizing the administration within the unit had not been implemented.

Subunit Warrant Officer M. Marchuk, who in the absence squadron officers was entrusted with the duties of commander, handled the matter in a negligent manner. The chain is not stronger than its weakest link... Marchuk was severely punished. Serious claims were also brought against the squadron commander. He had shut his eyes to the warrant officer's inactivity. In this case, the result suggests that the more exacting the subunit commander is to the warrant officer, the more deeply the latter influences condition of the established procedures.

[Question] Speaking at an assembly of okrug command personnel, and later at a meeting of party activists, you spoke, among other measures, of the need to increase the role of warrant officers in strengthening the established procedures. Such concern is understandable. One has heard the complaint many times that, they say, many warrant officers nowadays primarily pay attention only in their own special concerns without exerting active instructive influence on the disciplining of their subordinates. And those steps recently taken in the okrug with the warrant officers witness the search for new approaches to raising the effectiveness of the work of these officials for strengthening the established procedures.

[Answer] I will express my point of view. The majority of the warrant officers of the 50s-60s attended the serious school of real life and many took part in the Great Patriotic War. A front-line, battle-experienced and decorated warrant officer was a man who forged his will in the hearth of war, knowing the price of discipline well, and reacting to the slightest signs of laziness, was able to find the quickest way of establishing the prescribed procedures. He also notably surpassed his subordinates in growth, which meant that he understood life and people more deeply, and he was a skillful teacher. However, time passes. Young men began to arrive to replace the experienced wartime warrant officers. They did not possess sufficient experience. Here and there commanders began to shoulder part of the warrant officers' problems. Thus, little-by-little, certain warrant officers appeared who existed only for daily concerns.

The point is that the warrant officer was not only a good business executive, but also well educated. In recent years, one also has heard ever more of the claims of the "rejuvenation" of the warrant officers in our okrug. Now, for example, almost one in three of our warrant officers has served from 1 to 2 years. The average age of warrant officers approximates the average age the enlisted men and sergeants. One cannot leave this out of one's reckoning because the shortcomings of life's and service experience affects the style of the warrant officers' work of strengthening discipline. The problem, as you see, demands a complex and thought-out approach, a painstaking and systematic analysis of the claims on this most important sector, the adoption of timely and effective measures, and the introduction of necessary corrective amendments in the work of selecting, preparing, training and educating the warrant officers. The main point was that it was necessary to know how to teach warrant officers.

[Question] And what specific work is being done in the okrug?

[Answer] Last year, for example, according to the military council's resolution, the certification of subunit warrant officers was conducted. Special attention was paid to the political, professional and moral qualities of the warrant officers, and their ability, jointly with the commanders and political workers, to maintain strict procedures according to the regulations. According to the results of the certification, several warrant officers were reassigned due to negligent performance of their duties. We adopted these decisive measures exclusively in the interests of further strengthening military discipline.

An okrug warrant officer training-method meeting also took place at which, in particular, an advanced method of reconfirming the procedures laid down by the regulations was thoroughly discussed, practical exercises were conducted and a useful exchange of experiences in educating subordinates took place. By the way, such exercises have become systematized in the okrug. They are conducted also on a formation and unit scale, however the theme and character of the matters under discussion does not change. Such a manner of operation with the warrant officers also proves its value when the unit commanders conduct the monthly service meetings with them, at which the results of their work is summed up and the best regimental and battalion warrant officers are determined. Ever increasing dissemination is being given to subunit warrant officer days, when examinations of internal order and various competitions for the warrant officer most knowledgeable in his duties are conducted, and special lectures are delivered to them. Methodic exercises for company matters, proper implementation of regulations and analysis of disciplinary practice yield perceptible results. A class for the training of warrant officers was created based on one of the progressive formations.

The warrant officers' influence on strengthening the established procedures is more appreciable the more the unit and subunit commanders and political workers get involved with them. The are required to instruct the warrant officers not only during specially scheduled actions, but daily. This task is on-going. The more a commander scrutinizes the operational style of a warrant officer, the higher his exactingness and the stricter the control, and the more the concern he shows for a subordinate, the better one works. Why, for example, in the units where officers A. Kuznetsov, I. Anokhin and M. Kravchuk serve, as if the warrant officers selected are conscientiously, innovatively, demandingly and vigorously participating in the education of the soldiers? Because they work extensively with the warrant officers and constantly supervise them. Consequently, a majority of subunits have irreproachable internal order and have not had a serious disciplinary violation for a long time.

However, in the unit where Lieutenant Colonel K. Friyev serves, concern for the training of the warrant officers is obviously considered secondary, and it is no accident that they still have a weak influence over the order in the units. Here, as a result of insufficiently instituted internal administration, many disciplinary violations occur.

[Question] Working with the warrant officers, as you have said, requires a definite system, agreement in all of its components and creativeness. What are the primary components alloted to the okrug's military council, the

headquarters and the political directorate? What has already proven itself in practice and is receiving further development?

[Answer] The question of "warrant officer--discipline" is also a question of of the human factor. The essence here is that one should work at one's job, and do this with the utmost responsibility so that in the end real and useful results are evident, including, naturally, the fight for strengthening discipline. In the words of the Central Committee of the 27th CPSU Congress' Political Report, there can be no change if we do not understand the enormous meaning of practical activities. "It is impossible to change the organizational work," stressed M. S. Gorbachev, "with empty words and useless speeches at numerous meetings and conferences."

Here it is extremely important how the commanders, headquarters, political workers, and party and komsomol organizations approach a resolution of such key questions, as well as the selection, training and education of warrant officers. Analysis of the instituted certification procedure, of which I have already spoken, clearly demonstrated that, for example, during the selection of warrant officers a great degree of formalism ensued, and at times random people end up doing this task.

At times, only the discretion of a company, battery, or squadron commander (and here the "subjective risk" is great) decided who could be appointed a officer and who received orders to study in the warrant officer school. Moreover, it was reasoned: this man has a practical make-up, which means make him a warrant officer. However, this view is one-sided! Is it important to ascertain if he is capable of training people and possesses the necessary political, professional and moral qualities for the task?

In order to raise the quality of warrant officer selection in the okrug, we made it the duty of each commander, chief, political worker and secretary of party and komsomol organizations to thoroughly examine the candidates for this duty. All those who are responsible for the person who has decided to start on the path to becoming a warrant officer bear responsibility for him. People, who are not able to become warrant officers, do not receive our support.

However, if we essentially succeeded in raising the quality of the selection of warrant officers from among the best sergeants and sergeants major by recommending study at warrant officer school directly in the units, unfortunately, certain military committees are still displaying formalism in this area. Here is an example. V. Voronchenko, A. Matias and A. Kovalskiy, from the Kazatinskiy and Novograd-Volynskiy Rayon Military Committees, arrived for training at warrant officer school without any understanding of a warrant officer's duties... As it turned out, no one discussed or explained the importance of such a critical step with them. Such a performance of duty deserves the most severe condemnation and corresponding official and party measures. That people cast in their lots with the army is praiseworthy, but they must be given a deep understanding of the nature of a warrant officer's duty as any other. You know the axiom: the better the selection and training of a warrant officer, the more effective will be the resolution of the problems of strengthening discipline.

[Question] In the okrug there are a number of subunit warrant officers who are graduates of the okrug warrant officer school. The overwhelming majority of them work conscientiously and enthusiastically, adding an essential contribution in the implementation of firm procedures laid down by the regulations. However, there are those few who experience difficulty in educational work with subordinates, and are poorly supported by the sergeants. Much is left to be desired in the instructional and legal efficiency of individual warrant officers. All this, in one way or other, is reflected in the style of their way of increasing discipline...

[Answer] I agree. These problems exist, and we see them clearly. However, little is seen of the shortcomings and flaws, as was noted at the 27th Party Congress, and everything must be done so that they cease to exist. We are thoroughly analyzing the nature of the training process in the warrant officer school. In due time the conclusion was reached that it is not only necessary to give the future warrant officer a great knowledge and strong skills concerning the basics of military discipline, but also to make an important change in broadening their knowledge in the areas of military instruction, psychology, military law and methods of individual effort. That means raising the educational mastery. Now, more attention has begun to be devoted in school to practical exercises in military instruction, psychology and military law. Experienced specialists are being invited to teach them. In other words, a course has been taken so that tomorrow's warrant officer can competently deal with the laws confronting him by regulation, know well the particulars of the educational process of the military personnel, work closely with the commander, political worker, party and komsomol organizations and sergeants, and be able to correctly use the force of public opinion to strengthen discipline. Another important matter is that one must insure that a warrant officer is surrounded by attention, and that he continues to gain experience from his first days of service in a unit. After all, the training in a warrant officer school is only the first step toward warrant officer mastery. The next step is all his further service. However, in this case much depends on the feeling of his own responsibility, enthusiasm and initiative, and how his commanders, political officers and party and komsomol organizations influence him.

[Question] Concern for the increased role of warrant officers in the strengthening of discipline, and their personal responsibility for the consolidation of established procedures, are most important factors of party-political work. What is now receiving primary attention as these pressing problems are resolved?

[Answer] The military council, political directorate and political organs of the formations are attempting to make party influence on the warrant officers daily and effective. We systematically analyze the state of affairs, attempting to note positive and negative tendencies in a timely manner and to influence them in a corresponding manner, supporting all progressive, and noting what disrupts forward movement. Presently, the number of warrant officers becoming members of the party has noticeable grown in the okrug. We were not trying to speed up this process. People were trained, and the necessary political, professional and moral qualities were imparted to them

and the very best were accepted into the party. Naturally, the party's demand on warrant officers, who are members of the CPSU, has also grown, increasing their personal responsibility to the party organizations for work results. The increase of party interlayering among the warrant officers also yielded specific results. The numbers of disciplinary violations in the subunits, where warrant officers are CPSU members, have been reduced.

I stress that an increase in the number of communist warrant officers is not an end in itself. We do not need this as a "percentage", but as a benefit of the matter. Having accepted a warrant officer into the party, we must not only levy increased demands on him, but also teach him, educate him in the party spirit and develop his social activity on a daily basis. We judge the effectiveness of this work also by the fact that many warrant officers were elected as secretaries of party and komsomol organizations, and members of party bureau, komsomol committees, and organs of national management.

Specific work with warrant officers, who are CPSU members, is being done in the unit where Major D. Parashchak, delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress, is party committee secretary. The party committee systematically analyzes the personal traits of the communist warrant officers in service and discipline, regularly hears their reports on personal contributions to the strengthening of the established regulations, invites warrant officers to open meetings, and conducts conferences during which an assessment of the work style of each of them is given. Here constant attention is also devoted to the generalization and expansion of the advanced experience of the subunits' warrant officers. By implementing daily guidance, the unit komsomol organization and the party committee are seeking to exert a vigorous influence on the warrant officer-komsomol members. They are involved in active social work, and are given various assignments. The exactingness of the party toward the warrant officers is also high here. Anyone who does not exhibit a personal example of service and behavior is severely criticized. Another important point is that the communist leaders of the unit, and party committee members, get involved in the daily concerns of the warrant officers, help them to solve growing problems, and concern themselves with the daily situation. We set a difficult course because the responsible section, as is the warrant officer one, is made up mostly of communists. These tasks, you understand, cannot be solved by direct instruction. People must be prepared, trained and much work must be done with them individually. Several political organs and party committees are working incitefully and in good time studying the qualities of warrant officers and sergeants which may make up a warrant officer "reserve". This is a great help to the commanders, and it will have long-range effects on the condition of discipline. Mature warrant officers, who understand their responsibilities, are entering the subunits.

[Question] Speaking at an okrug party conference, you and others keenly raised the question of the ideological training of warrant officers and increased effectiveness in their political training...

[Answer] This is an important problem. It is impossible to increase the role of warrant officers in strengthening discipline without devoting the proper attention to their ideological training and the formation of firm convictions. A person acts according to the command of his level of consciousness, and in

compliance with the degree of personal responsibility for the assigned task. In this regard, it is difficult to overestimate the role of political training. Unfortunately, at times there are conflicts in that the feeling of a number of warrant officers toward personal responsibility is disparaged in favor of the expansion of their political viewpoint. Somewhere an impermissible and flippant opinion has taken root, that is, that a warrant officer's primary concern of the soldier's life and property accounting have been changed, and that it is not a loss to miss one or two classes.

One must consider the fact that there are now few soldiers in the subunits without a secondary education. Our soldiers are educated, erudite and able to evaluate knowledge. A warrant officer must face subordinates on a high level, be able to convince them with the force of logic, be well-informed on political questions and actively participate in political-educational work. Now, for example, it is especially important that warrant officers, as all personnel, have a firm grasp of the ideological richness of the materials from the 27th CPSU Congress, and analyze their work from the standpoint of the highest party forum. It is most important that the demands of the congress concerning the style of the personnel's work be practically implemented in the warrant officers' activities.

On this, I will also say that subunit warrant officers study political training in a group with the chiefs of depots and radio stations, and with senior technicians, etc. There is a great difference in the specifics of their work. It is difficult for the group leader to simultaneously teach a specific aspect of service of all the listeners at once, and to choose the problems which are important to the warrant officers. It appears that it would be beneficial in the units to create, for a category such as warrant officers, separate groups which study a program that more completely teaches the spiritual interests of this category of listeners.

Experience confirms that where there is a creative and responsible approach to the ideological training of warrant officers, their work of strengthening discipline also benefits greatly. In those places there is, as a rule, a high personal standard among warrant officers, and they are firmly strengthened in their duties. For example, Senior Warrant Officer L. Kushnerenko has been a warrant officer for 32 years. He has found his calling and has distinguished himself by his deep political maturity. Any question which the subordinates pose to Leonid Makarovich always receives a convincing and well-reasoned response. This is a major factor for the great authority and prestige of this warrant officer.

[Question] The prestige of a warrant officer depends, to a large degree, on the man himself, his responsibility, and his exactingness to himself and others. The authority of a warrant officer is won primarily by himself. However, supporting the prestige of the position is not his personal concern alone, but also that of the commanders, political workers, and party and komsomol organizations. There is an old saying: exactingness from a person plus concern for him.

[Answer] I agree with you. When the forms, methods and means of supporting the authority of the warrant officer position were analyzed, we ourselves

were, as they say, amazed. Most often, this support confined itself to a declaration of gratitude for selfless labor. We have tried to introduce corrective measures into the working with and stimulating this group of servicemen. Now, in the okrug there are many arsenals of support for the prestige of the warrant officer position. We have begun to devote significantly more attention to the life of the warrant officer: what are his living conditions, his family, does he have everything necessary for normal duty and what are his problems? We are not only trying to handle these questions, but are also, first and foremost, trying obtain positive results in practice. The most conscientious warrant officers, who have served more than 5 years, are offered living areas first, and at the closest possible distance from the subunit's location. We award them valuable gifts, certificates, and we enter them in the book of honor. Around the okrug orders are regularly distributed, in which the work of warrant officers is analyzed, and the best are commended. We severely criticize those who have committed offenses. Last year, many were awarded state decorations, a total of 143 men were commended. The okrug newspaper SLAVA RODINA regularly reports on the best warrant officers. An entire page was dedicated, for example, to Senior Warrant Officer V. Folvert, one of okrug's best warrant officers. In the material, primary attention was given to his work experience in strengthening the established procedures.

People must always have moral and material stimuli, no matter what position they occupy. However, at times, individual officials underestimate the value of warrant officer duty, considering than anyone can handle it. Here is a fresh example. It has become clear that in the unit where Major V. Andreyev serves, Senior Warrant Officer S. Zadorozhnyy was appointed as battery warrant officer, although he did not possess high educational and organizational qualities. Actually, he had served as a joiner. The duties of the warrant officer were transferred to his colleagues. Such facts demand the adoption of fundamental measures against the guilty in the service, as well as along party lines. Without this, a reorganization of the understanding of those who do not see and seek new approaches to the strengthening of discipline, and do not recognize the important work of the warrant officer in this area, is inconceivable.

The subunit warrant officer has been assigned one of the key roles in the strengthening of the procedures laid down by the regulations. He can be most useful in this matter only when commanders, political workers, and party and komsomol organizations cultivate a high feeling of responsibility in him, and demand perfection from him during daily training. They must, at the same time, give him detailed attention, react to his needs and requirements, and support the prestige of the warrant officer duties in every way.

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ARMED FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF EXPERIENCED FIRST SERGEANTS STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 86 p 2

[Article by Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Major A. Kovalev under the "Military Discipline: Addresses of Leading Experience" rubric: "Where Can You Find a Good Sergeant Major"]

[Text] "This question has in due course confronted us rather sharply," General of the Army Valeriy Alexsandrovich Belikov, commander of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District told us in an conversation. At the present time there are military units in the okrug where, one can say, this problem no longer exists. This is due, to a large extent, to the fact that in solving it we try to devote the most fixed attention to the authority and, if you will, the prestige of the position of the company, battery and squadron sergeants major [starshin]. Assignments and approval to this position are made at the very highest level. It is required that we take into consideration the candidates' party activity in this matter. We do have military units in which all sergeants major are communists. Commanders and political workers turned their attention to the concerns and needs of our sergeants major. Their apartments are kept in good order, and as a rule, directly next to the place of work. Meetings between the command-political element and the sergeants majors' families has become a good tradition in the regiments and formations. In such a close and sincere situation one knows better what the individual's life and concerns are like.

In my view, there is good work being done with the sergeants major of the Zheleznaya Motorized Rifle Division. This is something to teach others to obtain beneficial results...

Filled with emotion, Senior Warrant Officer Aleksandr Danilovich Demidyuk ascended the stage of the regimental club. He received a long and heart-felt standing ovation; Aleksandr Danilovich felt the tight lump rise in his throat, cutting off his breathing, but the faces, so close and good were quickly washed away by a gray, salty shroud. "Can this really be crying?" the sergeant major said suddenly. "Here, in front of everyone..." But the encouraging look from the formation commander, who was not far away, calmed him down. However, the audience demanded some words from him, but Senior Warrant Officer Demidyuk only could manage to say: "Thankyou! Thankyou very much for everything..."

"This is for you, Aleksandr Danilovich. Thankyou for your service." The formation commander shook his hand forcefully.

The applause rang out again. There were parting words and good wishes, and presents and more presents... There were models of tanks and weapons made with love by soldiers' hands...

Then there were just 2 people on the stage. Aleksandr Danilovich and Oleg Petrovskiy. The former handed over to the latter, as if done in a great relay race, brand-new epaulets with sergeant major's stripes. (Petrovskiy was promoted to this rank the day before.) Demidyuk entered the ranks of the battery's reserves. Petrovskiy was entrusted with continuing this responsible matter. His age was exactly 5 years less than the veteran's length of service...

On this high and emotional note, the Day of the Sergeant Major in the Samaro-Ulyanovskiy, Berdichecskiy and Zheleznіy Motorized Rifle Divisions opened, as is traditional, on the eve of the academic year.

The formation commander and the chief of the political department warmly support them. These measures greatly help the work with the sergeants major in the units and subunits to reach a new level of quality. This is not just a phrase.

Experience, built up in the units and subunits of the leading formations once more proves that firm military discipline and strong procedures laid down by the regulations in the subunit, to a large degree, depend as much on a sergeant major's high readiness, exactingness and enthusiasm in his duties, as on his ability to work with people. And on the contrary, if these qualities of a sergeant major are underdeveloped or blunt, and if the commander offers little help, one observes a case of digression from the norms of army life.

According to the concepts of the organizers, sergeant major days should facilitate the effective dissemination of experience of the foremost people, the clarification of weak points and the development of specific measures to overcome them. In other words, the purpose is to provide the sergeants major with a progressive method of organizational and political-educational troop handling procedures and give answers to many difficult questions, such as providing the personnel a healthy morale atmosphere, and avoiding the slightest occurrence of nonregulation relations among the servicemen. There are many questions which the service poses to the sergeant major, who is responsible for the proper execution of the duties of the enlisted men and sergeants, for the safe keeping of weapons, combat and other equipment, ammunition and company property, and who is directed to maintain internal order, exhort and educate his subordinates, and solve a wide array of other problems.

We have ensure that everything demonstrated is not "roughly speaking" and theoretical, as they say, but real and specific examples. Many sergeants major have noted in talks with us the methodic saturation of the sergeant major days and other measures.

For example, the division has begun semi-monthly seminars for sergeants major. At these work results are analyzed, and the best are noted. At these the voice of strict and severe criticism resounds in addressing the negligent. We admit that such a manner of stating a question causes some to smile sceptically. The truth is that we did not experience anything like this in the beginning, but, all in all, is not the official hidden by a sonorous style?

Soon we were convinced that the seminars, and especially for the people of the school, "be involved" in real-life material, and be firmly "grounded" in practice. There is no doubt that those who rely on not on flowery "thoughts", from the lecture, and on exercises in eloquence, but put everything into specific tasks and problems disturbing the personnel are correct. Here they depart from pseudo-scientific, empty and non-useful words, and subordinate everything to the interests of the task. That is why not a single blunder remains unattended, and not an grain of experience vanishes without a trace. It is precisely these grains and particles that "build up" a golden reserve of progressive work methods.

There is another side too. The matter concerns how a unit commander, political worker, secretary of a party organization and komsomol leader approach the sergeants major. Do they themselves know what the units's living conditions are, and what concerns and disturbs the sergeants major?

It is not an accident, and as they told us, broad analytical work is being conducted in the units by survey and interviews of the personnel, and talks with various categories of servicemen. All this gives abundant food for deep thoughts, correct assessments and general conclusions.

"Unfortunately, earlier we approached the sergeants major with several understated criteria", a unit commander told us. "The service, as well as the subordinates, would be treated fervently, strictly and demandingly. As a solider was heard to say: "Our sergeant major's mind is occupied only with his shoulder belt, and he never gives you a pleasant look or warm word."

Of course, a sergeant major does not gain authority with firmness and harshness alone, and all the more so with strong vocal tirades. He must be able to relate to people, and find secret paths to their hearts.

Look, continued our conversation partner, how young people are now coming to us. Well-read, educated and having sharply differing feelings of personal value. More and more often you see how they paint aiming circles on their uniforms.

In the formations one is convinced that each, literally each, sergeant major must be a man of high political culture and wide mental outlook, and to a certain degree, a psychologist, teacher and lawyer. He must also understand not only, let's say, the articles of clothing and the soldier's meals, but also the latest in liturature and cinema. Otherwise, who will turn to him for advice, share personal problems with him, and asks for his help in his life?

It has become a good rule that, more and more, a psychologist, teacher, lawyer and art critic are present at the seminars and sergeant major days.

Frankly, someone at the beginning perceived this with irony: "Perhaps now even the discharge papers will be directed in verse?" Why, they say, do we need these fine points and wisdom? We served so far without them, and we are also managing now.

We are not managing, as it is correctly viewed in the formations. Experience demands a resolute reformation of work in order to gain a fundamental improvement of discipline.

Practice is the best agitator for a new and useful matter. There is someone with whom to compare. We only call on the certain comrades who stand on the right flank in the division's sergeant major rank.

Warrant Officer Vladimir Petrynya has a higher education, and he studied by correspondence. This man is highly erudite and he has a liberal heart and mind. During his time in a unit we saw how people are drawn to him, and how their knowledge and good feeling are "replenished" by him.

Yuriy Zagorskiy also finished the institute before coming into the army. He is the same age as most of his subordinates. However, it is precisely to him, as to a person of more wisdom and experience, that people go with their innermost problems, because they are convinced that the sergeant major ponders their arguments, whatever they are: position in life, books read, and helps to come to an understanding in close-to-the-heart matters, and provides advice after failures in the training area...

Naturally, higher education is not a panacea from all troubles and miscalculations. Warrant Officer Yaroslav Kuzminskiy has no higher education, but his strong strict kindness and principles in the struggle with flaws has won him the respect of subordinates. It is a real pleasure look to at him in the ranks, and on the firing line. He has a rich character and is a masterful person; he is able to do so much! One can only imagine what is happening in the mind of a new soldier when he sees how a piece of inanimate wood is animated in the hands of the sergeant major, and a cold stone is transformed into a work of art. Kuzminskiy organized a circle of skilled craftsmen from the company around himself and in this manner got rid of many leisure time matters.

However, unfortunately, some do defame the sergeant major's high respect, and do not justify the hopes.

A recent recommendation of the formation's sergeant major pointed this out. By the way, this is also a new work form which is being tried out experimentally and is being more vigorously placed in service.

Let us discuss it in more detail. There are several stages to a recommendation. At first, the commander and political worker of the subunit write a testimonial of a company sergeant major. The battalion commander and his deputy affirm its objectivity. There is no embellishing the form. It

happened that a company was ready to embellish the record of service of its sergeant major in order not to "foul their own nest." In the given case, Captain A. Ivanichenko, the subunits commander, was punished for a non-objective testimonial.

Finally, the regimental commander confirms the testimonial and sends it to the formation headquarters.

On a sergeant major day the division commander comes to a regiment and reads such testimonials to those assembled. The individual either attains the duty concerned, or not as a result.

"The feelings felt in this are difficult to put into words," Senior Warrant Officer Mikhail Yavorskiy recognizes. "You stand in front of your comrades and are nervous, and assess the things you have done with the highest consideration. Of course, it is good to hear good words, they are inspiring. But if there is a dark spot on your conscience concerning a service deficiency, you do not know where to look out of shame."

The moral lessons here are very hard to overestimate.

It should be emphasized that there is no shortage of kind words in the sergeants major address in the division, and the outstanding performers are praised in ceremonial and festive conditions. The formation commander gives the best of the best commendations and valuable gifts.

One must also pay attention to how resolutely the careless and negligent warrant officers are being removed from their official duties in the formations. Such events have lately been taking place less frequently.

This is due largely to the thorough and precise work of candidate selection for the position of sergeant major. Company, battalion and unit commanders, political workers and party leaders, service chiefs and formation commanders talk with them. Their education, and political, practical and moral qualities, and inclinations and habits are taken into consideration, as well as their ability to be guided by the strength of the unit and public opinion. The candidates are alloted probationary time, as a rule, from 1-2 months. They are assigned to their duties after taking a difficult examination.

Who becomes a candidate for sergeant major, and who is appointed to this duty? We were told that the first in line are the warrant officers who have acquitted themselves well in their earlier duty, and have a developed sense of responsibility, are able to relate to people, and know when it is necessary to deal firmly with negligent people, and when to support the new soldier who has make a mistake. As a rule, their official and professional formation took place in front of those serving with them his home unit. They are well known and trusted.

However, there are not enough of "our" warrant officers in the sergeant major position. That is why a good half of them are regular sergeants and sergeants major. It is noteworthy that a majority of them have higher, or unfinished higher, special education. They are attempting to compensate for their lack

of personal and professional experience by selflessness in work and a genuine desire to become reliable supports for the commander. Naturally, there are sometimes troubles with them and they require closer attention. At first glance there is a more effective way: to direct such sergeants to training in the okrug warrant officer school.

"Yes, at first glance," notes Lieutenant Colonel A. Ziborov, "but for us that is not very..."

He explained what the problem was. The units direct sergeants to the sergeant major school. They study at the school, but seldom return to their parent unit, and instead of a well known man another arrives. This results in low performance and morale qualities...

We note that such opinions were held by other commanders and chiefs in conversation with us. Igor Goryachii was introduced as an indicative example of the professional situation. He was a junior commander who was under probation in a sergeant major position. Everything indicated that this was the place for him. He was directed to the warrant officer school. Further service in his parent unit was simply not a consideration. He returned to a subunit. One of the best sergeants major of the subunit went to a different subunit. All the same, such a fact, while exceptional, has not started to conform to the law.

"Here is a different fact. A beautiful example of continuity," Lieutenant Colonel V. Subota entered the conversation, "is Warrant Officer Vasiliy Ivanovich Beskorovayniy and his son Vladimir..."

Vasiliy Ivanovich served as a sergeant major for a little less than 2 decades. His son, for as long as he can remember, has also dreamed of becoming a military man, and definitely a sergeant major. "Because he knew of no more interesting duty in the army. He learned to read and write, one can say, from the letters which came to his father from former subordinates in various corners of the country."

The younger Beskorovayniy also became a Warrant Officer and a company sergeant major. As one of the best in the regiment he protects his family's honor.

We left the regiment late in the evening. Unexpected we encountered a person from Aleksandr Danilovich Demidyuks's barracks.

"I came to conduct my," the veteran was confused. "And the young people need help. Oleg Petrovskiy needs advice..."

We turned our attention to this, in spite of the late hour, and many sergeants major were in no hurry to go home.

This is real duty and there is quite a lot of concern, the regimental commander noted with a soft smile. In addition, their buildings are next to each other, and in their building everything is completely in order. We recall and consider this. We help with the apartments, we find the wife a job and the children a day care center. The efforts are returned a hundredfold...

In this regard, two ponderable facts, which the okrug forces commander introduced in our conversation, should be mentioned.

The number of infractions of military discipline in the division has been sharply reduced. And furthermore, the role of the so-called "responsible persons" has been viturally reduced to zero.

This is due primarily to the greatly increased role of the sergeant major.

The lives of the people are proof of this. From a letter to company sergeant major V. Beskorovayniy:

"Dear Vasiliy Ivanovich! Comrade sergeant major! You might not still remember Private Vasiliy Marchenko, "incorrigible" and "uncontrollable". I entered our company with such a character. I did not trust people then, and I did not have one close relationship in the world. I did not remember my mother and father... And to say it again, at that time, you knew my life's story as good as I. You warmed up my spirit and I will always be grateful to you. I could not say that trembling word 'father' to anyone. But many times when I met you I wanted to say it. It may be for this reason that I seem to feel very good about the strict army word 'sergeant major'.

Now I work in the Maritime Kray as a tractor driver. Not long ago I had a son. I named him Vasiliy in your honor. I envy the soldiers very much who will yet get to know the generosity of your heart...

Vasiliy Marchenko".

Such are the lines for which we work, serve and live.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Poor Reaction to Criticism

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'Between Word and Deed'"]

[Text] That is what an article of Col L. Nechayuk was called that was published on January 12, which discussed the fact that in the combat construction organization where Maj Gen B. Shkibtan is the head of the political section, the attitude toward press criticism and the style of leadership do not meet current requirements.

As reported to the editorial staff by Maj Gen M. Simakov, the first deputy chief of the political directorate for the combat construction units, the the newspaper feature was deemed correct and topical.

Verification on the site established that the instances presented in the article actually took place. The political department headed by Maj Gen B. Shkibtan and its subordinate political organs are still reviewing the style and methods of operation too slowly in light of modern party requirements, and have not demonstrated the requisite energy and acuteness in reacting to the shortcomings noted in the letter published earlier in the newspaper by Soviet Army employee M. Kakhanovskiye "I Don't Want to Work at Half Effort..."

Responses to the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editor were given very late, and an exacting evaluation was not done of the instances of mismanagement and poor organization at a number of construction sites and of serious omissions in the activity of managing engineering and technical workers.

Both newspaper features were discussed in the political directorate of the combat construction units with the chiefs of political departments of construction and billeting organs, and practical measures for improving operations with letters, complaints and declarations and critical newspaper features were projected.

Maj Gen B. Shkibtan was strictly reprimanded for the fact that he took an incorrect position with regard to the feature "I Don't Want to Work at Half Effort..." and did not adopt timely and effective measures for eliminating the

shortcomings revealed in it. Col V. Chegolayev was subjected to disciplinary proceedings for his poor reaction to criticism.

The commanders and political departments of the combat construction organizations have developed and implemented specific measures for improving the financial-management activity of the UNR [Administration of the Chief of Operations], where the chief is Lt Col V. Dmitriyev, and for making the situation in the collective more healthy.

The political directorate of the combat construction units has strengthened the monitoring of timely and businesslike reaction to critical newspaper features.

Shortcomings in Rear Services

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'Field Life'"]

[Text] In a lead article published under that headline on January 4, the discussion concerned, in particular, shortcomings in the organization of the food service and relaxation for the personnel of the regiment where Maj A. Vydyborets is the deputy commander for rear services. As reported to the editorial staff by Maj Gen B. Litvin, deputy rear-services commander of the Far East Military District, the newspaper feature was discussed at a session of the party committee and at a regimental officers' conference. Maj Vydyborets was heard at a party meeting, where he was reprimanded for omissions in his work. Questions of organizing the field life of the soldiers were worked out at assemblies of the commanders of the corresponding service formations and units of the district. In order to provide the personnel with everything necessary for field exercises, monitoring was implemented on the part of the district rear services.

Naval Unit Violations

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Mar 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'What Sort of an Answer?'"]

[Text] That was the title of critical material by Capt 1st Rank Yu. Timoshchuk that was published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 24 Dec 85 under the rubric "Returning to What Was Previously Published." It discussed the formalistic reply sent to the editors by political worker Capt 2nd Rank A. Grinev on the publication of "Who Needs Such Plans" in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 22 Aug 85.

Rear Adm B. Pekedov reported to the editors that all of the instances reported in the newspaper feature were fully corroborated. In violation of the requirements of directive documents, personnel of surface vessel units were actually sent to work in economic organizations and enterprises over a long period.

Both newspaper features were discussed at a conference of command and political personnel and assemblies of party activists. The commanders and political departments have adopted measures for halting the removal of personnel for the fulfillment of uncharacteristic tasks.

Those guilty of permitting the violations, Capt 1st Rank Yu. Dushko and Capt 3rd Rank S. Likhomanov, and other responsible officials were subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

The party commission of the political department investigated the cases of the incorrect behavior of responsible officials connected with the breakdown of the sweep hoist and the location of the ship in an unplanned region. For the ignorant choice of sweep hoist, the division chief of staff, Capt 3rd Rank Ye. Dobryshev, was called to party accountability and subjected to disciplinary proceedings. For the absence of a navigator when the ship went out into the ocean, temporary acting unit chief of staff Capt 3rd Rank S. Kovyrzin was subjected to disciplinary proceedings, and unit navigator Capt 3rd Rank V. Svetlakov was strictly warned.

By order of the unit commander, a light motor vehicle that had illegally been placed at the disposal of the financial services chief, Maj V. Makarov, was removed.

Capt 2nd Rank A. Griyev, demonstrating poor party qualities and professional incompetence in investigating the letter of Capt Lt N. Pripisnov, was subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

Capt Lt N. Pripisnov was given a written reply.

Poor Cadet Field Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 86 p 2

[Letter to the editor by Officer Cadet A. Chebotarev of the Kiev Higher Combined-Arms Officers Training Institute imeni M. V. Frunze: "On Field Training with the Troops..."]

[Text] Our field training with the troops ended recently. Most of us brought excellent opinions about our work with us and, it would seem, should have been satisfied. But neither I nor my comrades in the platoon were satisfied.

It seems that it is not worth discussing how we, graduating officer cadets, anticipated this trip to the troops, and how we prepared for encountering our first, even if temporary, subordinates.

The first disappointment befell us, as they say, on the threshold of X formation of the Transcaucasus Military District. We came at night, and insofar as we were not expected, as was apparent, we were put up in some unheated barracks. Early in the morning an officer came, calling himself the subunit commander, and requested that we quit the accommodations. We had to await the workday in the open. Our appearance did not gladden the formation

staff. We were requested to wait until the question could be resolved of where to send and accommodate us, which, apparently, had been forgotten. Only on the next day were we distributed among the subunits. Along with cadet O. Preobrazhenskiy, I was sent to an anti-aircraft missile subunit. Why there and not to a motorized-rifle unit, since we were future motorized-rifle platoon commanders? We were unable to get an answer to this question. Sr Lt S. Plakhutin, the officer in charge of the trainees, was also unable to get an answer to it.

In the units we were both named platoon commanders.

I prepared for my first class with the soldiers on the Internal Service Regulations of the USSR Armed Forces as for an examination at the institute. I wrote a detailed lesson plan and thought up examples that illustrated regulatory situations. But I worried all the same. How would the exercise go, would the soldiers be interested in it, would I be able to elucidate the essence of questions?

At posting, company commander Sr Lt I. Lartsev reported to me that the class was being postponed. The platoon had to occupy itself with administrative work.

The next day the platoon was sent to dig a trench, and then began a series of other domestic tasks. Thus, the class could not be conducted. And that was not all. Over the course of a month of training I conducted a total of three classes.

How was the rest of the time occupied? I did subunit documentation, regularly filled out the military preparedness report journal, and supervised people in domestic work.

The training of cadet Preobrazhenskiy went about the same way. I found out later that it was little different for Jr Sgt A. Usakov, who had trained in the subunit where the commander was Maj Vedernikov, for cadet A. Berov and for the rest of my comrades.

Over all this time, we really felt like platoon commanders on just one day. That was when the unit was awaiting the arrival of inspectors. Something on the order of crash work was conducted in the unit. All of the personnel were occupied according to the company schedule.

That is how the field training went. The question is posed involuntarily: why did it have to be? Why was so much time wasted? I would not want to end up serving in that formation after the institute.

Political Officers Reprimanded

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Mar 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'After Inquiry and Reminder'"]

[Text] The correspondence of Col A. Drovosekov and Capt 1st Rank M. Shashuto, published on January 31, told of instances of a formalistic attitude toward press criticism on the part of KaSSR Military Commissar Col B. Yarmukhamedov, senior officer for Inventiveness and Innovation of Armaments Directorate of the Northern Group of Forces Capt, now Maj, V. Plaksenko, deputy chief of the political department of the Kolomna Higher Artillery Command School imeni October Revolution Col V. Babak and unit political worker Lt Col V. Zarudnyy.

Military Council Member and Chief of the Political Directorate of the Central Asian Military District Lt Gen G. Kochkin reported to the editors that the correspondence "After Inquiry and Reminder" was discussed at a session of the district military council. For neglecting work with letters and complaints and a formalistic attitude toward the critical feature in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, KaSSR Military Commissar Col B. Yarmukhamedov was strictly reprimanded by order of the district troop commander.

Chief of the Political Department of the KaSSR military commissariat Col V. Gedrovich was heard at the district political directorate. For serious omissions in work with letters and complaints, underestimation of the critical newspaper feature and untimely reaction to it, the party commission of the district political directorate announced a party pronouncement of reprimand.

For an inattentive attitude toward participants in the Great Patriotic War, the former military commander of the Sovetskiy Rayon of Alma-Ata, Col V. Maltsev, was subjected to disciplinary proceedings. The necessity of proper monitoring of the timely reaction of republic military commissariats to critical newspaper features was indicated to Col A. Kurdybanskiy, deputy chief of staff of the district.

It was stated in the reply of Military Council Member and Chief of the Political Directorate of the Northern Group of Forces [NGF] Lt Gen I. Titov that the newspaper feature was discussed at the political directorate of the NGF. The criticism was deemed just. For an untimely and formalistic attitude toward KRASNAYA ZVEZDA features ("But What Sort of Return?" and "Formal Reply" from 19 May and 19 Jul 85 respectively) and red tape in eliminating the shortcomings noted by the newspaper, Maj V. Plaksenko was strictly reprimanded.

The inadequate level of leadership for innovation and inventiveness work in the group of forces and the lack of monitoring of the reaction to the newspaper that was permitted was strictly indicated to NGF Deputy Commander for Armaments Maj Gen V. Korobeynnikov.

Deputy Chief of the Political Department of the Moscow Military District Maj Gen L. Balashov reported to the editors that the correspondence "After Inquiry

and Reminder" was discussed at the district political directorate. The lack of a serious attitude and an energetic response to the critical features of the press were strictly indicated to Chief of the Political Department of the Kolomna Higher Artillery Command School imeni October Revolution Col N. Milannikov and his deputy, Col V. Babak.

First Deputy Chief of the Political Directorate of the Belorussian Military District Maj Gen B. Aleksandrov reported that the newspaper feature was discussed at the district political directorate. The lack of a self-critical approach to evaluation of the material "An Unforeseen Incident" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 10 Sep 85) was strictly indicated to Lt Col V. Zarudnyy. Unit party and Komsomol organizations have currently made work on the atheistic education of the troops considerably more active.

Newspaper March Mail Summary

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Mail of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

> [Text] In March the editors received 14,044 readers' letters. Of these, 333 were published in the newspaper. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA received 596 responses to features.

Last month, an event of historic importance took place--the 27th CPSU Congress was held. It confirmed the general line of accelerating the social and economic development of the country and strengthening peace on earth. As testified by the mail to the editors, it received the passionate approval and support of our readers.

The March mail contains reports on meetings of soldiers with congress delegates, study and propaganda of documents adopted at it, beneficial changes in localities, and rebuilding in the psychology of people and work itself. Col V. Nechitaylo of the Central Asian Military District, Lt Col A. Kucher of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Capt Lt V. Yegorov of the Pacific Fleet, Officer Cadet V. Vovchenko of the Kiev Military District, Pvt P. Galynskiy of the Leningrad Military District and other readers wrote to the newspaper on how the ideas and resolutions of the congress are being realized.

> Many letters were devoted to party foreign policy activity and its titanic struggle for peace on earth. This is what Great Patriotic War participant and first-group invalid Grigoriy Grigoryevich Bazhanov wrote to the editors from Yoshkar-Ola: "I went to the front as a volunteer. I was shell-shocked and badly wounded. I was awarded two combat orders and many medals. I am writing about this so as to emphasize: I know about the horrors of war firsthand. That is why I am so deeply touched by the concern of the party and the Soviet government for the war veterans and satisfied by their struggle for disarmament and peace. No person can stand aside in the struggle against the

warmongers. I contributed 1,000 rubles to the Soviet Peace Fund in February."

The letters which discuss the struggle for peace contain, as a rule, an appeal for urgent work and valiant service to reinforce the defensive capability of our Motherland. Many of our readers have written to the editors on how the soldiers of the army and navy are fulfilling this mandate and on successes in military and political preparation and the effectiveness of socialist competition: Col A. Chayka of the Moscow PVO [Air Defense] District, Capt Lt G. Smirnov of the Fleet and other comrades.

Many associate successes in combat training and service with persistent, constant and dedicated work on strengthening military discipline and the maintenance of regulatory order. It is precisely this that explains, as considered in the letter sent to the editors by Maj V. Senin of the Central Asian Military District, the outstanding indicators of the artillery batteries commanded by Capt V. Ryabokon. There have been no violations of discipline in this multinational collective for three years.

In conducting an interested discussion on changes and rebuilding, the newspaper readers discuss shortcomings openly and with principle, name the guilty parties, seek a way out of the situation that has been created, and evaluate their own activity in a self-critical manner. It is gratifying that ever more such letters arrive each day.

> "Year in and year out, the question of re-equipping the warehouse structures has migrated among the agendas of the most varied of meetings and conferences," writes Maj G. Zheltyakov of the Pacific Fleet in his letter, "and all of a sudden a few months ago they got to thinking: are we really helpless in this matter? It became apparent that the fleet has enough prefabricated warehouse structural elements, but the situation with installation specialists was difficult. Then Warrant Officer P. Dyachenko proposed that he be sent to learn installation. Meanwhile, a special team was created from other workers. And soon, sailors, warrant officers and servicemen were working alongside the team members. And with what enthusiasm! I myself had to pour the foundation concrete and then collect shelves.
>
> One good initiative always precedes a new one. Warrant Officer A. Asryan proposed an improved roof version, which sped up the work and conserved expensive structural elements."

And here Lt Col V. Savitskiy of the North Caucasus Military District honestly acknowledges that the rebuilding of the work of the officers of their unit is proceeding more slowly than it should. Training time is not always utilized rationally and efficiently in their collective, and methodological preparation is still insufficiently high for a number of commanders. Naturally, the cause

suffers from this. Measures are now being undertaken in the unit to correct the situation.

> Other readers' letters discuss shortcomings in the organization of combat training and educational work. Guards Maj V. Gornyy of the Northern Group of Forces wrote of an "arrhythmia" in the course of tankers' combat training and instances of disruptions in plan targets. In his letter, Capt Yu. Semenov of the Transbaykal Military District talks of the absence of a comprehensive approach in educational work and the unsatisfactory state of discipline in the subunit.

It is impossible not to agree with the opinion of the readers that time requires the more rapid elimination of shortcomings.

Far East Flight Safety Violations

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'Flight Discipline'"]

[Text] That was the title of the lead article published on February 18 of this year. Instances of the gross violation of flight safety measures by air units of the Red Banner Far East Military District [DVO] were cited in it.

As reported to the editors by Deputy Chief of the Pilot Department of the VVS [Air Force] of the DVO Col A. Timoshchenko, the newspaper feature was discussed at a conference of command and political personnel of the VVS DVO directorate. Shortcomings were analyzed in the combat preparation of army aviation and command posts and in the organization of air shipments. Maj Gen Avn P. Ettinger, Lt Col V. Apalenov, Col N. Sleponchuk and other officers spoke on questions of flight safety at the political department. The existing shortcomings were strictly indicated to them. Maj V. Karymov was relieved of his duties for unauthorized changes in the flight assignments and the illegal shipment of passengers and freight.

Military Construction Supply Omissions

!rXhow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'Planned Disruptions'"]

[Text] The letter of construction team leaders A. Strelkov, A. Lukin and others, published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on January 25, spoke of omissions in the planning and organization of production and material and technical supply in the military construction organization headed by Lt Gen L. Chuyko.

Col A. Yevdoshenko, deputy chief of the political directorate of the military construction units, reported to the editors that the instances cited in the

workers' letter were confirmed and the criticism inherent in them was deemed correct.

The leadership of the military construction organization was ordered to adopt effective measures for improving the style of organizational, political and administrative work, increasing the responsibility of personnel for the fulfillment of plans and socialist obligations, eradicating formalism in socialist competition and strengthening party influence on all facets of the life and activity of soldiers' and workers' collectives.

Construction administration Chief V. Potapov, construction administration Deputy Chief for Industrial Enterprises I. Feodanov, Chief Engineer A. Kapustin, as well as Large-Panel Housing Construction Plant Director A. Shidlovskiy, were relieved of their duties and are being called to party accountability for serious omissions in their work.

A reply signed by Lt Col V. Makarov, acting chief of the military construction organization, states that the newspaper feature was discussed at an expanded conference at the political administration with the participation of the managers of the construction subunits and teams who had appealed to the editors, as well as at a party meeting of the construction administration and a meeting of the party and administrative activists of the plant.

Specific measures were adopted for improving the organization of production and supplying the construction sites with that which will ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the this year's plan for housing construction. Moreover, a housing-construction combine is envisaged on the basis of the existing plant, which will make possible an increase in the output and quality of products and the achievement of regularity in housing construction.

False Criticism Investigated

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Simonov, senior pilot-inspector of the VVS [Air Force] main headquarters, Col N. Volovik, VVS political department officer of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Col A. Andryushkov: "Following Up on Letters: Rumors and Facts"]

[Text] As on-site verification showed, Maj Yu. Danigevich placed his own appearance at a regimental party meeting at the basis of his letter to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

For a long time before this, the voice of the deputy squadron commander and squadron navigator had not been heard, even in the party organization. To the surprise of the communists of the training air regiment of the Borisaglebsk Order of Lenin Red Banner Higher Aviation School for Pilots imeni V. P. Chkalov, Maj Danigevich suddenly enumerated a multitude of serious shortcomings that were not known to anyone.

In his appearance at the meeting and complaints addressed not to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA alone, Danigevich reported that through the fault of the regimental

commander not a single exercise in command preparation was conducted in the regiment over the whole preceding year. Marxist-Leninist training had not been held for three years (in one of the letters--two years).

In all, there were more than ten critical observations. But we will dwell on the two, in our view, most serious ones. The question is posed in principle of the unsatisfactory state of combat and political preparation and the reluctance of the commander to instill order in this matter. Therefore, a resolution was adopted to create a special commission without delay to verify the facts on the spot. The authors of this correspondence were members of it.

In the presence of Maj Danigevich, all of his complaints against the party committee and unit commander were reviewed, dozens of official documents were studied along with the documents of various commissions that inspected the unit over the last five years, and individual and collective discussions were held with soldiers in the officer's regiment. And this is the sort of picture that emerged.

Command preparation over the last training year and currently is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of leadership documentation. The progress of the officers in each subunit is calculated individually. The results and verification totals are reflected in journals. The course of officers' command preparation is analyzed by totaling up the results of training and competition over the month. The plans for Marxist-Leninist preparation of officers and political training are also completely fulfilled.

Shortcomings were also discovered in verification. Attendance at classes did not always meet requirements. Cases of poor monitoring of the taking of notes by subordinates by some commanders were also revealed.

Training in the units and subunits is naturally not arranged for the sake of training. Its quality is judged by the final results. Here they are. Over the course of the last ten years, the air regiment has operated without accidents and has completely fulfilled the combat training plans. Direct merit in this belongs to the unit party committee, which is now headed by Capt Grebenchuk. The regiment has been inspected four times by authoritative committee since 1981. The overall mark in each case was no lower than "good." The conclusion was drawn that "the state of combat training and the level of ideological and political preparation of the personnel meets requirements."

As we see, we have a clear disparity between the true state of affairs and the picture drawn by Maj Danigevich in his letters. We asked the officer to explain honestly what it was that made him complain. In response we heard an incomprehensible discourse on the fact that the commander and his deputies, he said, had to deliver all lectures for officers personally, but they did not appear before their subordinates.

Verification showed, however, that the regimental commander is the leader of a Marxist-Leninist training group for the administration. Moreover, on the average he delivers lectures and discussions twice a month before his subordinates according to the party committee plan. Other officers and leaders also take part actively in agitation and propaganda work.

"Yes," acknowledged Danigevich, when he was acquainted with the specific facts, "the first two points of my complaint do not correspond to reality."

The rest of the points also did not "correspond to reality." To put it bluntly, without hiding behind complete formulations: Danigevich simply lied in his letters. As became clear, comrades of the unit spoke of this candidly and in a principled party manner to the communist still earlier, before the arrival of the commission, at a party meeting.

"The questions that troubled Danigevich," emphasized in particular then Lt Col M. Lukmanov, "really are important. And we should have said 'thank you' to him if he had been guided by a desire to eliminate the shortcomings. But Danigevich consciously distorted the truth."

Having listened to his comrades at the party meeting who strictly warned Maj Danigevich about the inadmissability of distorting facts in the future, the officer stated, "I understand that I was wrong."

Leaving that meeting, he immediately wrote his next complaint to Moscow. A bet was made in it that lies, dressed in pretty phrases, an appeal to problems that are today at the center of universal attention, would impart the appearance of truth to flights of imagination. But it is well known that in whatever clothes lies are dressed up, sooner or later they will be recognized, and truth will triumph.

As Maj Danigevich acknowledged, the source of his "critical observations" was rumors. Moreover, he selected rumors carefully, only those that blackened the commander and his deputies.

"Tell us honestly," we asked the officer, "what it was all the same that compelled you to cite knowingly inaccurate information in the letters?"

The silence was long. But Danigevich evaded a truthful answer. Looking aside, he said, "I thought that after my letters things would be even better in the regiment..."

Time will tell if Maj Danigevich has enough courage and will to evaluate his acts in a self-critical manner. It is indisputable, however, that the conscious distortion of facts cannot go unpunished. After discussions with his colleagues, it can be said with firm confidence that the communists of the regiment, with a high sense of responsibility for the complex tasks being fulfilled in preparing air warriors, will not allow him to violate standards of socialist morality in the future, to take the position of a "bystander," specializing in the collection of rumors and the distortion of facts.

Followup to Readers' Complaints

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed article under the rubric: "Measures Taken on the Signals of Readers"]

> [Text] Pvt (Reserve) O. Shishlov, having served in one of the units of the Volga Military District, wrote to the editors about a violation of the law. By unit order Shishlov was discharged into the reserves. But the company commander, V. Shikhalev, ordered him to remain in the subunit for two weeks.

At the request of the editors, the letter was reviewed at the district political administration. First Deputy Chief of the Political Administration Maj Gen A. Skoryy reported that this incident was discussed in the unit at an officers' conference. Capt Shikhalev was removed from the command of the company. He was strictly reprimanded at a party meeting and a notation was made in his record card. The resolution was adopted to place Shikhalev on trial in an officers' court of honor.

* * *

> Capt G. Laktionov, serving in unit X of the Transbaykal Military District, demonstrated coarseness in his attitude toward subordinates and disregarded the requirements of regulations. The editors sent a letter about this to the district political administration for verification.

In reply, Maj Gen O. Khristoforov, first deputy chief of the political administration, states: measures have been adopted to establish regulatory order in the subunit. Capt G. Laktionov was relieved of his responsibilities. Communists expelled him from the ranks of the CPSU.

* * *

> Residents of one of the garrisons of the Central Asian Military District wrote about the fact that homes in the town are poorly supplied with water, gas and electricity. The microrayon does not have enough childrens' institutions.

Maj Gen A. Larin, first deputy chief of the district political administration, replied to the editors.

Measures were adopted in the locality for strengthening the monitoring of heating supply, and defects were eliminated in individual entries and apartments. The city soviet adopted a resolution to increase the supply of gas in the microrayon and complete the gasification of all residences. Work was implemented to improve water supply. The district command petitioned the KaSSR Council of Ministers to construct more schools in the microrayon.

For omissions in his work, the chief of the KECh [billeting operations unit], Maj A. Miroshnichenko, was relieved of his duties.

Materials' Management Violations

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Followup to a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Feature: 'A Riddle in Code'"]

[Text] That was the title of the correspondence of Lt Cols Yu. Zhavoronkin and S. Levitskiy that was published on January 12 of this year. It discussed mismanagement and wastefulness in the fuel and lubricants service [FLS] headed by Capt V. Orekhov.

As reported to the editors by Moscow Military District Military Procurator Maj Gen Justice I. Yangayev, the military procurator's office of the garrison, with the participation of officers of the FLS of the Moscow Military District, conducted a verification of the facts presented in the article. It was established that as a result of the unlawful commands of Col I. Sokolov, Lt Col V. Dumnazev and other responsible officials, B-95/130 aviation fuel was mixed with lower-quality brands of motor-vehicle fuel and then used for refueling ground equipment. This led to the formation of surpluses and the resorting of fuel and lubricants. Other instances of mismanagement and violations of the requirements of universal regulations were discovered in the course of verification.

The military procurator's office submitted a proposal to the unit commander on disciplinary action for Lt Col Dumnazev, Capt V. Orekhov and fuel warehouse chief Warrant Officer and on introducing order into the storage of materials.

Col R. Karasev, chief of the fuel and lubricants service of the Moscow Military District, reported to the editors, moreover, that Sr Lt V. Tishinyy conducted a conference of the personnel of the district FLS service on the question of the poor quality of inspections. The more careful selection of outside inspectors was indicated to the officers. Classes at an assembly of the service specialists of the district were planned.

As reported to the editors by Col V. Archegov and Lt Col O. Lyubchenko, the correspondence "A Riddle in Code" was discussed in unit X at service conferences and party meetings. Lt Col V. Dumnazev was called to disciplinary and party accountability. Maj Yu. Pogorelskiy spoke at a party meeting, and Capt V. Orekhov at a party committee session. They were strictly warned about negligence in the execution of service obligations. Capt V. Orekhov and Warrant Officer S. Zhuravlev were strictly reprimanded. The question of the high-quality economizing of material values and increasing the responsibility of managers was discussed in the political department and a peoples' control group.

Military Preparedness Training Flaws

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Capt 2nd Rank (Reserve) V. Sakhranov, Military Instructor School, Moscow: "A Sharp Signal: In the Role of Applicant"]

[Text] Our secondary school No 542 is relatively new--it is four years old. And for all four years we have been unable to fulfill completely the initial military preparation program. The fact is that the school still has neither the agreed-upon automatic weapons and small-caliber rifles nor ammunition for them.

We have needed to equip a room for storing arms in the newly built school for years. We have received no help from anyone in this. It seems that such a structure should be envisaged in the school building plan, which would make the task much simpler.

At the beginning of the school year, we sent a request to the Red Guard Rayon Military Commissariat of Moscow to obtain arms and ammunition. And now the school year is coming to an end, and the request has still not been satisfied. At the rayon military commissariat, they are complaining that the city military commissariat is not allocating arms.

At an assembly of military instructors, I asked for an explanation from the department chief of the city military commissariat, Col A. Tatarinov.

"You haven't received arms?" he asked in surprise. "That's strange. There's no problem here."

Two months passed after that promise, and there were no results. Therefore, I resorted to a letter directly to the city military commissariat, but I have received no reply. Twice I tried to go to an appointment with them, but the appointment was not on the schedule.

It is a pity that my students will be unable to fulfill their automatic weapons firing drills this year as well. According to plan, combat firing should be conducted with ninth- and tenth-level students now, in April. But how can I allow them onto the firing line if they have never held an automatic weapon in their hands?

Construction, Housing Complaints Handled

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed article under the rubric: "Measures Taken On the Signals of Readers"]

> [Text] Lance Corporal V. Mikhaylov wrote to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the unhealthy situation that had arisen in the military construction detachment in which he was serving.

Col F. Gaydarzhi, chief of the political department of the military construction organization, reported to the editors that a comprehensive verification has been conducted in the detachment. Detachment commander Maj M. Zolotovskiy, his deputy for political affairs Maj V. Kurbatov and company commanders Capt I. Nilov and Sr Lt I. Pulatov were warned about incomplete service conformity for poor educational work and distortions of disciplinary practice. Deputy company commanders Lts V. Afanasyev and A. Kostetskiy were reprimanded. Platoon commander Warrant Officer A. Orda was expelled from the Komsomol and recommended for discharge into the reserves.

The construction workers that had violated discipline were called to strict accountability. Inveterate violators were expelled from the Komsomol.

Regulatory order was instilled in the subunits, and regular classes in political and special preparation were set up.

* * *

A group of new residents complained to the editors about the poor quality of the house constructed by the UNR [office of the work supervisor] headed by Maj V. Zakharov.

Maj Gen O. Khristoforov, deputy chief of the political department of the Transbaykal Military District, reported the results of the verification of the letter to the editors. The facts were confirmed. UNR Chief Maj V. Zakharov was reprimanded by the party committee of the political department of the district construction administration for the poor quality of construction, installation and finishing work. Section chief S. Trifunov, a Soviet Army employee, was called to accountability at the recommendation of the military procurator's office.

The defects in the housing were corrected.

Newspaper April Mail Summary

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 May 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Mail of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] In April, the editors received 11,613 readers' letters. Of these, 431 were published. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA received 639 replies to features.

The mail received by the editors last month was multifaceted both in terms of the topics and problems undertaken by readers and by geography. They have one distinguishing feature, however. That is the unflagging deep interest of the authors of many letters in the documents adopted by the 27th Party Congress and the discussion of realizing them. From the point of view of the new and higher requirements of the party in all facets of life and activity in the country, the readers also analyzed the results of the winter training period.

"Our subunit," said, by way of example, Sr Lt Yu. Kozlov of the Turkestan Military District, "fulfilled its socialist obligations, and the collective affirmed its title of excellent. But the results that were achieved were nonetheless subjected to critical analysis at a party meeting. After all, according to many indicators, and in particular the fulfillment of standards, economizing, and rationalization work, the collective repeated earlier indicators. And this is marking time. The party meeting spoke out for a change in the old approach to socialist obligations."

Lt Col V. Saranchev of the Southern Group of Forces, Lt Col V. Svirko of the Central Asian Military District, Maj S. Trefilov of the Ural Military District, Maj G. Butmalay of the Carpathian Military District, Capt Lt Yu. Chugunov of the Pacific Fleet, Lt V. Naumovich of the Transcausus Military District and many other readers wrote to the editors about the results of exercises and the fulfillment of obligations. What has been achieved is not a limit. That was the general idea contained in these letters.

Part of the April mail was devoted to rebuilding and, in particular, to changes in the atmosphere, rhythm and tone of life and service and to peoples' interested and creative attitude toward the cause. Such work, as the letters testify, is continuing everywhere, even though many problems arise in it.

> "In recent months," Lt Col V. Gamzyuk of the Siberian Military District shares his reflections with the newspaper, "flight preparation has improved and combat readiness has increased in our unit. But at the same time, more punishments are being imposed on soldiers in certain subunits. The fact is that the squadron commanders have ceased to be named as responsible for barracks and more time is taken up with their own direct obligations. Hence the improvement in combat-training matters. The growth in the number of punishments declared by the sergeants is a consequence not of a reduction in the struggle for military order and the steadfast fulfillment of regulatory requirements, but a result of a displacement of the accent in disciplinary practice. Earlier junior commanders almost never took part in it, but now their role in establishing regulatory order has increased sharply. As a result, the level of order and organization became higher. It was not a mechanical redistribution of duties from those responsible to the sergeants. Junior commanders, at the recommendation of the unit methodological council that discussed ways of strengthening military discipline, are regularly assembled in special classes, their authority was raised and exactingness toward each was increased."

The author further writes that not everyone in the superior staff liked such an approach. It is persistently suggested that those responsible be designated. Why not, it is more customary and easy that way. But is it in the spirit of the times?

Many letters in the April mail were devoted to a Leninist theme, and to how the communist mass Saturday work dedicated to the anniversary of the birth of the leader was spent. Lt Col V. Timoshchenko of the Transbaykal Military District, Maj Yu. Sergeyev of the Baltic Military District and sailor B. Alderkhanov on board the submarine Magnitogorskiy Komsomolets wrote about this. And here are lines from the letter of front-line tanker and I-group invalid V. Budykovskiy: "I could not participate in the Saturday mass work--my years and health did not permit it. But for the fourteenth time, on this important day I sent fifteen rubles of my pension to the Soviet Peace Fund. To stand up for peace is the sacred duty of every honest person."

Alarm over the worsening international climate penetrated many other letters that arrived in April. In them, readers angrily denounce the initiators of star wars preparation and their patrons, condemn the underground nuclear-weapons tests conducted by the United States and stigmatize the piratic attack on Libya. Also in the letters is passionate approval of the foreign-policy initiatives of the CPSU and the Soviet government, and expressions of readiness for selfless labor and service to strengthen the defensive capability of the country.

Shipboard Flight Control Flawed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 86 p 2

[Letter to the editor by Sr Lt A. Antipov of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet: "Letter to the Editor: Cheated by Attention"]

[Text] Officers with blue coloring on their epaulettes can be seen on many ships today. Aviators are resolving complex combat-training tasks side by side with sailors. And naturally, the efficiency and quality of the resolution of these tasks depends on the level of professional preparation of both of them along with the ability to interact.

The question arises involuntarily: why has sufficient attention not yet been paid on some ASW ships to training the specialists at shipboard flight control stations? Their preparation was allowed to slide, and as far as the quality of training, little need be said--it is lower than required. In short, concern for raising proficiency ratings became a personal matter, even though there is someone specifically responsible for this part of operations. That is Maj N. Yarosh. When he was asked about combat-training plans for the control-stations personnel, however, Maj Yarosh only shrugged and advised the naval aviators to give some thought to resolving this task themselves.

The shipboard flight-control specialists had to appeal to their comrades-in-arms for assistance--the pilots based on the mainland. They were able to assist their colleagues only in the resolution of questions of theoretical preparation. And what about the practical side of things? The shipboard aviators demonstrated initiative again and appealed to the commanders, proposing the following version for raising their training: conduct field training in other units where appropriate experience had been accumulated. The reply followed: there is not yet a preparation plan for the 1986 training year.

Capt 2nd Rank V. Nikonov, whose duties include organizing the joint resolution of combat-training tasks among sailors and shipboard flight-control stations, advised the latter "as a friend" "not to make a fuss and to be satisfied with what there is."

It is possible not to be worried about the preparation of aviation specialists who have served on the ships for three or four years--they have the skills. But what do the young officers do? Will they be able to pass the tests for clearance for independent operation this year?

The aviators are not worried only about the technical side of things. "Maybe we are not needed on the ships?" they ask.

The sailors and aviators hear many words about the necessity of close interaction. And first and foremost from those responsible officials who, judging by the facts, actually underestimate the role of shipboard aviation specialists. That is why the words, unfortunately, most often remain words...

Lieutenant's Transfer Ordeal Described

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 86 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Col V. Bogdanovskiy: "Following Up on Letters: Leapfrog With Appointments"]

[Text] The conversation with Sr Lt V. Kuzichkin was long and difficult.

"Judge for yourself, is this really fair?" said the officer excitedly. "Having arrived as a replacement, I didn't seek out a promotion. The position of regimental meteorological service chief was proposed to me, and I accepted it after the appropriate instructions. But after this a real game of leapfrog began at once: I relinquish the position to Sr Lt Kozyakov on orders from above, then I take it again and then I relinquish it again..."

The senior lieutenant spoke in a quick-tempered manner. It was clear from everything that the officer was offended. And, it would seem, not without reason.

Arriving here as a replacement, he found out that his position was already occupied by Lt P. Ponomarev.

"Don't let it bother you," Kuzichkin was reassured by the lieutenant's father, Col R. Ponomarev, to whom the meteorological service was then subordinate. (Today he is in the reserves). "You won't be left without a job. We are thinking of offering you the position of chief of the meteorological service of the fighter regiment."

Col R. Ponomarev himself called the regimental staff and gave notice to the chief of staff: "Let Kuzichkin take the position of chief of the meteorological service and get to work. This question was decided at the highest level."

Sr Lt Kuzichkin took the position. But on the very next day Lt Col V. Sereda, acting on behalf of the regimental commander, communicated the order: "Relinquish the position to Sr Lt Kozyakov."

"Why?" asked Kuzichkin in surprise. He wanted to asked the commander about it, but he was not around. Kuzichkin approached the chief of staff, a political worker and other responsible officials. However, to put it simply, they brushed him off: look into it yourself, they said. Neither did Col R. Ponomarev nor Lt Col A. Balakhnenko, who was occupied with personnel matters, with both of whom he spoke by telephone, give any intelligible answer to the senior lieutenant.

But the telephone conversations did not remain without a reaction. After a few days, the regimental chief of staff again issued the order that Kuzichkin take the position of chief of the meteorological service. But in August of last year, a written order arrived in the unit designating Sr Lt Kozyakov for this position.

Now Col (Reserves) R. Ponomarev, Lt Cols A. Balakhnenko and P. Kosenchuk and others with whom we spoke, confirm: "Then the decision was made to allow Sr Lt Kuzichkin to execute the duties of chief of the unit meteorological service temporarily. He should prove himself in the position. He did not live up to our hopes. Look at his personal file."

It is true that the notations in the personal file of Sr Lt Kuzichkin did not provoke admiration. However, responsible officials should have become acquainted with them before promising the officer a promotion. But they disregarded this requirement. And not by accident.

Before his discharge into the reserves, Col R. Ponomarev decided to fix up his son, Lt P. Ponomarev, a little closer to home. And the opportunity presented itself here. The facts testify that it was thought out in advance. It is just that Radomir Pavlovich did not elaborate in time whether it was planned to fill the vacant position with someone of the regiment's own officers. And it turns out that there was a candidate. That is how the leapfrog with the designation of Sr Lt Kuzichkin started.

The newly arrived officer was received demonstrably coldly. No one tried to investigate the resultant situation.

"There's not enough time," complained Maj N. Galega. "Flights must be provided for, there's no sentimentality here."

What sentimentality are we talking about? Here is an instance. A general from a superior headquarters somehow came to visit the unit. He also looked in on weather forecasting. The coversation was businesslike and cordial. At the end, the general beacme interested: "Does anyone have any personal questions?"

Here Sr Lt Kuzichkin described what was troubling him. Without a careful investigation of the causes of the origin of this complex story, the general,

naturally, could not give a simple answer. He ordered the commander and the chief of staff to investigate the essence of it. But without any philosophizing, they cleverly punished the lieutenant. On the basis that, they said, he had dared to appeal to a superior officer without their permission. In short, the senior lieutenant is constantly encountering clear indifference to his fate in the unit.

At the same time, the correspondent was unable to obtain a specific answer as to why the leapfrog with his designation became possible, and why a "set-up" of protection was allowed for the position of Lt P. Ponomarev. Thus it is still too early to bring this story to an end.

Monetary Abuses Punished

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 May 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "There Could Be No Complaints"]

[Text] A critical contribution from V. Bogdanovskiy was published under that name on April 10 of this year.

As reported to the editors by Col N. Nekrashevich, the facts indicated in the article were confirmed. The subunit commander, Lt Col P. Piskunov, was warned about incomplete service conformity and was recommended for discharge into the reserves. On the party line, he was strictly reprimanded with a notation on his personal card. His deputy for political affairs, Maj V. Yeliseyev, was strictly reprimanded. Maj A. Avdeyev was relieved of his duties as secretary of the party organization.

Taking into account the short time they have held their positions, Officers G. Pronin and V. Miloserdov were given strict directives. Col V. Vasilyev was punished for poor work on educating officer instructors.

Corresponding sums were deducted from those individuals who had allowed misuse and unallocated expenditure of monetary resources.

The son of Squadron Commander Sr Lt A. Piskunov was transferred into another unit for further service. Officers V. Kotov and A. Stupak, workers in the personnel organ, were punished for violating the appropriate requirements for the selection and arrangement of personnel, and the poor monitoring of the fulfillment of the indicated requirements was strictly indicated to Col V. Kostylev.

A system of measures for improving educational work with officer personnel in light of the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress is projected.

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ARMED FORCES

OBITUARY: FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF POVALIY

PM051402 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jun 86 Second Edition p 3

[Obituary of Colonel General M.I. Povaliy]

[Excerpts] Col Gen Mikhail Ivanovich Povaliy, CPSU member and Great Patriotic War veteran, has died following a prolonged serious illness.

M.I. Povaliy was born on 31 December 1913 in Voskresenka Village in what is now Zaprozhye Oblast's Priazovskiy Rayon. He volunteered for the Red Army in May 1931.

In the post war period he was chief of a main directorate and deputy chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, first deputy chief of the K.Ye. Voroshilov Military Academy of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, and military consultant at the USSR Defense Ministry Institute of Military History. He played an active part in sociopolitical life and was elected delegate to the 12th and 13th CPSU Congresses.

S.L. Sokolov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, V.I. Petrov, A.D. Lizichev, N.I. Savinkin, Yu.P. Maksimov, Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, A.I. Koldunov, A.N. Yefimov, V.N. Chernavin, V.L. Govorov, S.K. Kurkotkin, V.M. Shabanov, N.F. Shestopalov, A.T. Altunin, I.N. Shkadov, A.I. Sorokin, G.A. Morozov, A.N. Agafonov, M.M. Kozlov, V.Ya. Abolins, S.P. Ivanov, V.N. Dutov, P.A. Zhilin, N.V. Usenko, S.I. Radziyevskiy, M.M. Kiryan.

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CSO: 1801/201

ARMED FORCES

OBITUARY: MAJ GEN MED SERV NEVSKIY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Apr 86 p 4

[Text] Major General Medical Service (Retired) Nikolay Mikhaylovich Nevskiy, veteran of the Medical Service of the Armed Forces of the USSR and Honored Doctor of the RSFSR, died unexpectedly.

A loyal son of the Soviet people who put all of his strength and energy into selfless service to the socialist homeland and the cause of the Communist Party, of which he had been a member since 1932, has departed this life.

N.M. Nevskiy was born in Moscow on 1 May 1893. After graduating from the medical department at Yurev University he was drafted into the Baltic Fleet as junior physician on a cruiser. In February of 1919 he joined the ranks of the Red Army and served as senior physician in one of the Northern Front regiments. In subsequent years he headed the staffs at the Polotsk, Vitebsk and Minsk military hospitals and the Department for Medical Service Organization and Tactics at the School of Military Medicine at the Kharkov Medical Institute. From the beginning to the end of the Great Patriotic War N.M. Nevskiy served as chief of a clearing station of the Western Front. He served as chief of the Central Military Red Banner Hospital imeni P.V. Mandryka from 1948 to 1968.

N.M. Nevskiy's military and labor career was marked by high government awards: the Order of Lenin, three Orders of the Red Banner, the orders of the Patriotic War, 1st and 2nd degree, the Order of the Labor Red Banner and the Order of the Red Star, and many medals.

We shall always hold in our hearts a bright memory of Nikolay Mikhaylovich Nevskiy, loyal son of the Communist Party and the Soviet people.

S.K. Kurkotkin, P.I. Sysoyev, I.M. Golushko, V.P. Timonin, F.I. Komarov, V.N. Dutov, A.V. Fedorov, Ye.N. Borisov, I.V. Sinopalnikov, Ye.V. Gembitskiy, K.M. Lisitsyn, A.M. Kapitanenko, Yu.D. Glukhov, N.L. Krylov, V.I. Slepynin, L.M. Rozhkov, I.V. Shastin, V.I. Samokhvalov, V.P. Pichuyev, B.G. Likhoshvay, R.Z. Zaytsev, D.Z. Kolosov and N.D. Merkuryev

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

INTERVIEW WITH PVO COMMANDER, COL GEN AVN MOSKVITELEV

Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 15, 7-13 Apr 86 p 6

[Interview with Col Gen Avn Nikolay Ivanovich Moskvitelev, Deputy Commander in Chief for Aviation of Air Defense Forces, Honored Military Pilot of the USSR, Candidate of Military Sciences, by Yuriy Ivashchenko, under the rubric "13 April--Air Defense Forces Day": "The Fatherland's Shield"]

[Question] Happy holiday, Comrade General! But let us leave the formal speeches until later. Right now, let us imagine that some flying object is approaching the USSR's air border. What air defense actions would be taken?

[Answer] The detection service would give immediate warning of the object's presence and issue a description: altitude, speed, course and coordinates. It would be possible to determine from this what we are dealing with: a combat aircraft, a civilian airliner or a dirigible. Subsequent air defense action would depend upon what sort of target it is: an expected or an unexpected guest.

[Question] Excuse me, you immediately referred to our imaginary object as a target....

[Answer] You heard correctly. Any flying object approaching our nation's air borders becomes a target to us and will remain a target until we identify it and become convinced that it is harmless and does not pose a threat.

[Question] Let us assume that we are dealing with an unexpected guest.

[Answer] Duty PVO fighters would immediately be sent out to meet it. On the ground antiaircraft missiles guarding important facilities would be put into a state of combat readiness. The missilemen would thus be backing up the airmen and erecting one more obstacle on the intruder's path.

[Question] Nikolay Ivanovich, describe in detail the main PVO subunits.

[Answer] The Antiaircraft Missile Troops constitute the main fire power. They are armed with systems with great destructive capabilities and effective over the entire range of flight altitudes and speeds of modern air attack means.

The Aviation is the most maneuverable branch of the Air Defense Forces. Its mission is to destroy air attack forces mainly on the distant approaches to the facilities they are covering.

The Radio Technical Troops are our eyes and ears. They support the combat operations of the missilemen and airmen. It goes without saying that the RTV (Radio Technical Troops) are also equipped according to the latest word in science.

[Question] But the possible enemy also has the most modern equipment. American bombers can fly at supersonic speeds at an altitude of 30-40 meters. The possible enemy also has powerful radioelectronic counteraction capabilities.

[Answer] That is true. We assess the enemy realistically. There is no place for complacency or overconfidence in our work.

[Question] Please describe a specific example characterizing the reliability of our air defense system.

[Answer] That is not difficult, although the example might seem surprising.

It was the night of 1 October 1983. An unknown aircraft invaded the nation's air space in the Far East. It was subsequently learned that this was a Boeing 747 of a South Korean airline. It did not respond to warnings by Soviet aircraft and was in no hurry to leave the air space of a sovereign nation closed to it. The Boeing was shot down, falling into the sea.

[Question] Maybe I am missing something, but how can this incident serve as the example we need?

[Answer] The Western secret services are demonstrating a heightened interest in the Soviet Far East, where the Pacific Fleet is based and where important military and national economic installations are located. We are constantly aware of this interest, and the Air Defense Forces are still thwarting attempts by reconnaissance aircraft to intrude into our air space. And the Boeing showed up there....

Aircraft sometimes become involuntary intruders, when their navigational systems fail them and they have to make a sudden landing. I want to stress the fact that we never open fire if we have only a formal legal right to do so, but we first attempt to explain to the intruder that he is an intruder and order him to leave Soviet air space or to make a landing at a designated airfield. We do this even if it is a military aircraft.

We were far more circumspect with respect to the Boeing. Destructive fire was opened only after it became absolutely clear that the aircraft was on a reconnaissance mission and was deliberately ignoring our signals.

[Question] Western propaganda is exploiting the case of the South Korean Boeing to make the Soviet people appear to be bloodthirsty killers....

[Answer] The killer is the one who prepared that military-political provocation, the one who benefited from the deaths of completely innocent passengers.

It is even more indisputable today than previously that the Boeing was a reconnaissance plane. Here are the facts.... The aircraft's takeoff from Anchorage was held up 40 minutes in order to synchronize the time of the Boeing's approach

to the shores of Kamchatka and Sakhalin with the flight of the Ferret reconnaissance satellite. That satellite is designed for conducting radiotechnical reconnaissance over the broad range of frequencies on which the Soviet Union's radioelectronic facilities operate.

Just prior to the violation of USSR air space by the South Korean aircraft, there were two RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft, an Orion aircraft, an E-3A AWACS aircraft and a Badger frigate in the area of its operations. Their purpose is well known.

Nor does the assertion that the Boeing "became lost" or "strayed" stand up to criticism. The entire flight of the intruding aircraft was carried out not just in a zone accessible to air traffic control facilities, but also within the effective zone of the American LORANS-C radio navigational system, which makes it possible to determine an aircraft's true coordinates with great precision at any time.

The provocation in the Far East was all the more brazen because the Soviet Union had previously forced an intruding South Korean aircraft with civilian markings to land in a similar situation. This occurred in the northwestern part of our nation, in an area which is also of interest to NATO intelligence. That time, luckily, there were no victims, but the USSR's preparedness to resolutely protect the inviolability of its borders was demonstrated with great certainty.

[Question] In the contemporary Western literature on CIA activities, flights by the Lockheed U-2 aircraft over the territory of the USSR are called one of the most brilliant achievements of American intelligence at the end of the '50s.

How far have the Air Defense Forces come since the '60s?

[Answer] Powers was forced to abandon his U-2 on 1 May 1969, and that day is one of the most memorable of my life. At that time I commanded a regiment which had just mastered the MiG-19 V (the V stands for high-altitude) aircraft, the most modern at that time. The telephone suddenly rang. Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union Pokryshkin was on the line. He ordered us to be in a state of readiness and wait for the order to take off and intercept an extraordinarily important target. Festivities were beginning at precisely that time in Red Square: there was music everywhere, and the mood was amazingly joyous and upbeat....

We knew about the spy flights, of course, but for some time they had been out of reach for us. We were angry, of course. And then at last, this opportunity. I had great faith in our new MiG. In principle it could have taken on the American. The missilemen near Sverdlovsk beat us to it. We were happy for them with all our hearts, but we also envied them.

Today, the air defense aircraft climb into the stratosphere and "know how" to destroy even the most "shifty" targets. I just returned from the Far East, where I saw how restrained the American reconnaissance aircraft about to head for the Soviet borders have become. We only had to send up our new aircraft.

I believe I have answered the question.

(Background information: Our interviewee has mastered more than 30 types of aircraft during his flying career. He has flown piston (propeller-engine) aircraft, the first jet aircraft, supersonic aircraft and aircraft of the fourth generation. He has spent 4,000 hours in the air.)

[Question] In peacetime, although it would be difficult to describe the workdays of the Air Defense Forces as peaceful, a pilot's skill cannot be determined by the number of aircraft he shoots down. Just what is the criterion?

[Answer] The level of theoretical training, the absence of accidents and the number of accurate interceptions carried out in exercises.

The Order of Lenin was recently awarded to Colonel Ivlev, and our comrade, Colonel Zhukov, wears the Gold Star of the Hero of the Soviet Union on his chest. During a flight mission he found himself in an unforeseen situation which threatened to destroy the aircraft. Demonstrating the highest level of skill and courage, however, he succeeded in landing and saving the aircraft.

The soldiers and officers of other air defense subunits also serve with excellence.

[Question] Comrade Commander, how did this holiday, Air Defense Forces Day, come about?

[Answer] It was established by an ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on 20 February 1975 to commemorate the great service of the air defense fighters in the Great Patriotic War and their execution of particularly important missions in peacetime.

Pilots of the 123rd Fighter Regiment commanded by Major Surin entered into unequal battle on the approaches to Brest on 22 June 1941. They shot down 30 enemy planes that day. Lieutenant Ryabtsev performed an aerial ramming before the eyes of the defenders of the Brest Fortress.

During the heroic defense of Tula soldiers and commanders of the 732nd Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment adjusted their weapons for direct laying and repelled an attack by the Hitlerites, destroying more than 20 tanks and frustrating the enemy's attempts to break through into the city from the march.

During the war air defense formations and units burned 7,313 Hitlerite aircraft and more than 1,000 tanks, and destroyed around 1,500 guns and mortars. More than 80,000 soldiers and commanders in the Air Defense Forces were decorated with orders and medals for glorious feats, and 93 of the fighters were awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

[Question] Nikolay Ivanovich, just when did the Soviet air defense come into being?

[Answer] Immediately following the victory for the armed uprising in Petrograd in November of 1917, Vladimir Ilich Lenin assigned workers at the Putilov Plant the mission of speeding up the dispatch to the front of an antiaircraft armored train. It was to cover the cradle of the revolution against raids by mutineers

who had been joined by students from the officers' air school located at Gatchina. That armored train and the antiaircraft motor vehicle battery stationed at Krasnoye Selo were essentially the first air defense formations of the young Soviet Republic.

[Question] Who trains flight personnel replenishments for the air defense Aviation? Are you satisfied with them?

[Answer] Flight personnel for the air defense Aviation are trained at the Stavropol Higher Air School for Pilots and Navigators imeni Marshal of Aviation Sudets and at the Armavir Higher Military Air Red Banner Pilots School imeni Chief Marshal of Aviation Kutakhov. The cadets at the schools study the general education, engineering and special military disciplines, learn to fly on jet trainers and master modern supersonic interceptors.

Yesterday's school children are being taught how to perform the courageous and complex job. Every year a new generation of young airmen with good theoretical training, adequate flying time and flight skills permitting them to master the most complex elements and kinds of combat work join the line air units of the air defense Aviation.

[Question] One more question, Comrade General: How does service in the air defense Aviation differ from service in a flying unit of the Air Forces?

[Answer] Our airmen perform a combat mission even in peacetime, and even the most trifling error is inadmissible. Upon receiving the order to begin alert duty to protect the homeland's air borders, they become sentries of the skies.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

LT GEN SVIRIDOV REVIEWS RESULTS OF AVIATION TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Apr 86 p 1

[Interview with Lt Gen Avn I. Sviridov by Lt Col A. Vasilets, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "From Positions of Demandingness"]

> [Text] Lieutenant General of Aviation I. Sviridov took part in the final inspection of air force units of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District for the winter training period. Lieutenant Colonel A. Vasilets, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, asked him to answer some questions about how the aviators' combat training looked.

[Question] What was your general impression of what you saw in the district, and could you mention any sort of trends in the improvement of the combat readiness of the combat units and the training quality?

[Answer] Frankly speaking, the impressions were mixed. We had joyous moments: it is always pleasing to watch a good, coordinated performance by an entire collective and its individual elements. There were also disappointments. Speaking of trends toward the improvement of things, I would first of all like to mention the fact that the overall level of order and organization has risen. The commanders are giving more attention than before to the implementation of requirements contained in the regulations. This is manifested in improved performance of duties by the troops, in the appearance of the servicemen and in the organization of the training process.

It is very important that a perceptible attempt is being made to complicate the combat training conditions for the subunits and units, to make them approach the actual conditions which can arise in combat. One senses a mood in the men, a desire to perform in the new manner, to readjust and improve, an orientation toward specific matters, a desire to go beyond words to concrete action. The very conditions under which the final exercises were conducted required that the commanders operate resolutely and boldly, that they seek to find new and original solutions. Most of the officers-and-leaders were up to the tasks facing them.

The fighter-bomber regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel V. Istomin, for example, was tested under the most rigorous conditions approaching actual combat to the maximum possible degree. The mission was unexpected, the range where the airmen were to destroy the targets was unfamiliar, a complex interference situation

was created, and the crews themselves used all types of interference for overcoming the "enemy" air defense facilities, which had actually been set up in the area of the range. Naturally, the airmen in the regiment interacted with subunits of other branches of aviation in the execution of their combat missions. The terrain features were also complex: mountains and foothills. In short, the conditions under which the regiment was tested were the most rigorous, with a minimum of conventionalities and no simplifications at all. Nonetheless, the regiment performed precisely and confidently.

[Question] Are there signs of a readjustment in the district air units? Are all of the officers in charge making the adjustment to the new manner of working?

[Answer] The complete reorganization of the work depends primarily upon the extent to which the human factor is activated and upon how all of the officers--first and foremost, of course, the officers in charge--handle the job, each in his own position. I want to stress the fact that almost all of the airmen are in a militant frame of mind and are putting their all into the work. Most of the commanders and political workers understand that the combat training today cannot be organized in the old manner, that we have to seek ways to intensify it, have to reject routine, combat every sort of indulgences and exaggerated ratings, and strive to make the standards more rigorous. Naturally, all of this involves specific action by the political organs and party organizations.

We must not be deluded by our successes, however. Along with the trend toward improvement of things, the inspection also revealed certain alarming elements. The facts show that individual officers at the leadership level did not measure up to the contemporary demands, that while verbally championing the readjustment, they have in fact not succeeded in abandoning the old routine ways and habits and continue to rely upon creating the appearance of good results by lowering demands and easing the standards. This makes it apparent that they are incapable of organizing combat training based on the demands of the times or of striving effectively to further enhance combat readiness and the quality of the air training.

For the sake of safety, for example, we had to cancel and reschedule the transfer of the subunit in which Officer A. Arkadyev serves, although that was the mission it was assigned in accordance with the exercise concept. It had become clear that the flight operations group was poorly prepared. Its officers were unable to come up with the correct solutions to problems introduced by the inspectors in situations which could have been far more difficult. This indicates that they have become accustomed to operating under simplified conditions in the daily combat training.

Certain officers-in-charge attempt to justify simplifications in the combat training on the grounds of striving for flight safety. Such actions are profoundly erroneous, because they are detrimental to safety itself. In actual combat a poorly trained pilot runs a far greater risk of not coping with the assigned mission or even with flying the aircraft in general.

It should be pointed out that the readjustment is going more slowly precisely in the administrative element. In the aforementioned subunit the individual preparedness of the airmen is fairly good, and with corresponding supervision they could

realize their capabilities more fully. Nor did the higher headquarters demonstrate proper efficiency and competence when the subunit was executing its complex mission.

The inspection in air units of the Turkestan Military District is continuing, and each day of work by the group of generals and officers is producing more and more new facts and observations which need to be thoroughly interpreted in order to derive the necessary lessons. There is no doubt about one thing: an absolute majority of the officers understand the need to work in the new manner, to achieve the maximum return, and have a sense of responsibility for the fulfillment of their duties and their commitments in the competition. There are still numerous shortcomings as well, however. It is important to analyze everything which has been done universally and thoroughly and to assess with demandingness each person's contribution to the common cause in order to achieve better results during the summer training period.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

PARTY CONGRESS DELEGATE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 86 p 7

[Article by Capt 2nd Rank V. Obukhov, deputy commander for political affairs on the nuclear missile cruiser Kirov, Red Banner Northern Fleet, under the rubric "Efficiency and Discipline: The Congress Delegates Speak": "The Crew's Strength Lies in Discipline"]

[Text] The nuclear missile cruiser Kirov came off the building slip relatively recently. It is young not just in years, however: it is also unquestionably the very latest with respect to equipment, the most advanced scientific thought embodied in metal. It also has youth in its crew: the average age of the seamen is not over 25 years. This fact attests to the high level of political maturity of our navy youth.

One of the main concerns is to constantly maintain the crew at a level of military discipline and service organization which provides for the most effective use to be made of the weapons and combat equipment, for the quality execution of all the combat training missions. The very design of the ship and the technical and scientific developments incorporated in it call for the very highest technological, professional and military discipline on the part of those who operate and service the ship.

This is why the molding of our crew is inseparably linked with the development and establishment of a tradition of good discipline and organization among the Kirov sailors. Captain 1st Rank A. Kovalchuk, the first commander of the nuclear missile cruiser Kirov, had a special role in this. He always placed the human factor at the fore and was thoroughly convinced that in order to make maximum use of the capabilities embodied in the ship, the capabilities of each seaman must be fully realized.

We try not just to retain but to add to that which was developed in the crew during its first days of existence. There have been successes, and a certain advance has been achieved. It is doubtful that you will find an individual on the crew today, however, who is completely satisfied with what has been achieved. And this is only natural. The pace of acceleration requires that even the successes be viewed in a critical light and that we not merely acknowledge shortcomings but take a determined line of eliminating them as rapidly as possible.

I listened with excitement to the CPSU Central Committee's Political Report to the 27th Party Congress and thought to myself: Here they are, the party methods for taking a strict, determined and constructive approach to the most pressing problems. A reassessment of certain values also began there in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses. I now clearly see things on the ship to which I quite recently attached no importance.

The congress discussed the specific responsibility of each individual for the specific job and for its results, and I thought uneasily about the fact that this matter has not yet been raised with real urgency on the ship. The crew has a strong officer corps. The warrant officers are reliable assistants to the officers. The petty officer element is somewhat weaker, however. Until recently we regarded this as something unavoidable: there is the natural renewal of the petty officer personnel, and then there is the cost of preparing petty officers in training subunits.... All of this exists, of course, but we somehow forgot, or perhaps became used to not recalling, the fact that the commanders of the petty officers are directly responsible for their preparation and training and for the effectiveness of their work. Do we make strict demands of the subunit commanders? No. And we sometimes do not even think about the fact that this weakens the crew.

For example, two disciplinary infractions were committed several weeks ago in the navigation division commanded by Captain 3rd Rank S. Fedorov. Both of them occurred in the hydrometeorological observation section. When a detailed study was made, it was learned that Senior Seaman V. Dezhko, section commander, had been concealing petty infractions of discipline by subordinates and had fulfilled his regulation duties purly as a formality, performing diligently when in the view of officers or party activists and at other times taking liberties in his relations with the seamen.

Some people might say that this is a trifling matter for a ship such as the Kirov. However, all infractions of military discipline, which sometimes lead to failure to accomplish the combat training missions by entire ships, most frequently start with precisely such "trifling matters," which are not noticed by the officers and are concealed by the petty officers.

This reminds me of an incident on a recent naval cruise, when a radiogram was not delivered promptly due to a lack of discipline on the part of just one seaman, a subordinate of Senior Lieutenant A. Ryabinin, commander of the communications division. "What is wrong?" we were asked from shore. What could the commander say? Explain that the problem had been created by an undisciplined specialist?

At that time we considered this to be an individual negative incident. Now, however, when I relate this to other, less significant infractions of discipline in the communications division, I can see an entire organizational level which, frankly speaking, we overlooked.

Yes, it is not enough simply to see and register shortcomings in matters of discipline. Today, an incorrect, irresponsible act by one crew member can result in a significant lowering of an entire ship's combat readiness. The leader's

attitude toward problems of strengthening discipline today therefore defines his party and professional maturity as a whole. The whole atmosphere at the congress has oriented us toward intolerance of shortcomings and their active elimination. Also toward the active and skillful application of everything progressive which we possess.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

ADMIRAL SIDOROV ON COOPERATION IN COMBAT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Admiral V. Sidorov, commander of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet: "Combat Potential: Military Skill -- The Art of Cooperation"]

[Text] During the course of winter training the Navy conducted various tactical exercises during which temporary groups were formed. These groups included surface ships of various classes and designations, submarines, aviation, auxiliary vessels, rear support elements and naval infantry elements. During the exercises one element or another was able to resolve a great number of fire missions and combat drills. But primary stress was on having these heterogeneous forces develop joint actions, for this is precisely where ship, unit and formation commanders most effectively develop the combat skills needed to really accelerate the increase in the Navy's combat readiness.

The time has now come to review these exercises and they have provided the Naval Command with a lot of food for thought. Take this fact, for example. It turned out that one group formally achieved somewhat higher results in carrying out its combat exercises. But the paradox is that on the whole, the situation during the exercises was not in their favor. The opposing side held the initiative throughout the entire exercise and by constantly building on its operational success, it gained a convincing advantage in the end.

Of course, there is an explanation for everything. Although the first groups fired well, they did not operate in a coordinated enough manner. On the other hand, those operating in the opposing groups showed a high degree of coordination and operational teamwork. And this is why, despite the fact that individual crews were not able to show the requisite firing skills, success was nonetheless on this side. Partial failures were compensated for by having the main forces operate in an active, purposeful and harmonious manner on the primary avenues.

The side that works better together in battle can defeat even an enemy that is stronger. The truth of this tenet has been known for as long as military art has existed. But now the role of clear, reliable cooperation has grown immeasurably. Since the Navy was equipped with qualitatively new types of weapons and equipment possessing colossal combat capabilities, the scales of

combat operations on the sea and their dynamics have grown significantly. Resolving the missions that the Navy has requires that groups consisting of various types of forces and equipment be created. The ability of the commanders and of all personnel to operate as part of these groups, with a complete understanding of their place and role and with an understanding of their neighbors' capabilities, is now one of the factors for success.

This ability does not come all by itself. It comes only when the entire command training system and all military training is aimed at developing it. Unfortunately there are places where the necessary concern is still not manifested. Many senior commanders and staffs have a cavalier approach and are inconsistent and not thorough enough in teaching their subordinates how to operate confidently as part of these diverse groups and how to cultivate the solid skills needed to reliably interact with other ships and units. People in some units remember this work primarily before exercises. But cooperation planned right on the eve of battle even in the most careful manner will hardly be really reliable if the appropriate base has not been developed previously and for a long time before this, if the commanders do not have the solid knowledge and skills necessary to jointly resolve missions and if they have not been psychologically prepared for this.

There is one instructive episode that comes to mind. A hunter-killer group headed by Captain 2nd Rank B. Plenkov was searching for "enemy" submarines. Initially everything that the submariners did went according to the plan that the unit staff had developed on the eve of the exercise. The ships maneuvered in a harmonious fashion in the search area and cooperated well enough with one another. But an unexpected complication arose at the decisive moment: the ship that succeeded in establishing contact with the target was not in a good position to attack it. The commander of another ship was ordered to take the contact from the first ship and make the attack. It was important for the commander at that moment to be able to delicately evaluate the situation, manifest tactical thought and be able to grasp the entire battle picture, but alas... He operate by rote. Attempting to complete his firing as quickly as possible and without thinking, he sped toward the target along the shortest route possible and quickly came between the target and his colleague who had continued to maintain contact. The sonar situation that developed caused the sonar operators to have to operate at a disadvantage and as a result they were not able to pass the necessary data to the attackers in a timely manner.

We constantly require that all commanders be able to persistently and accurately complete all their assigned missions within the assigned time frame and we often talk about the need to increase responsibility for the state of affairs, especially in the area personally entrusted to each individual. And this is certainly correct. This is the primary criterion for the professional skill and maturity of the command cadre. However, it is at the same time becoming increasingly evident that narrow-mindedness, a one-sided approach and reticence only in the circle of problems of one's own crew and one's own sub-element can cannot lead to anything good. Today a commander needs an extensive look at modern battle and a wide tactical mental outlook. While persistently gaining solutions to "his own" tasks, he must certainly consider how that task is "inserted" into the system of the operations being done by those heterogeneous forces with which his ship is operating. Beyond his own

mission he must see the final result, the qualitative accomplishment of the general mission. And in some situations the commander is even required to be able to subordinate personal success to the general success if this is a result of the logic of cooperation. Do I need to mention the restructuring of commanders' psychology that is necessary for this.

And there is another issue that should be stressed. Heterogeneous forces have that name for a reason. Each of their composite parts has its own clearly expressed specialty. And it is very difficult to compare the missions, for example, that anti-submarine forces and launch crews, submariners and naval infantry, coastal missile men and aviators have. But when considering the specialty of every component link, one cannot forget the fact that there is also, if you will, the general naval beginning and the totally specific unity of tactical principles. These are the foundation from which all naval commanders, regardless of what military collectives they may head, formulate the single approach to developing the methods and ways for conducting combat operations.

And certainly the flag commanders and the officers in Naval Headquarters and in formation and unit headquarters have a special role. The demands that each of them must satisfy today are the result of the 27th CPSU Congress's directions about the quality of contemporary leadership. Both the manager-business executive wanting to achieve production accuracy and cooperation and the naval leader striving to improve cooperation among the subordinates in his military collective have an intense need for competence, a feel for the new, initiative, daring and a readiness to take responsibility on himself, the ability to assign tasks and follow them to the end and the ability not to lose sight of the political concept of his own activities.

The Navy has many admirals and officers who possess such qualities. They have had occasion to lead not only their own units, but also forces and equipment attached to them in many critical exercises. And here is what is valuable: each time you see how persistently and thoughtfully these leaders use any opportunity to improve cooperation and how skillfully they create a difficult situation during the course of military training that corresponds to the requirements of contemporary battle and to an atmosphere of a collective search for ways to most effectively resolve the major missions of these heterogeneous forces and to improve party and political work during the course of training.

But unfortunately the opposite still exists. There are still examples of men holding very responsible positions, yet thinking in a very narrow, superficial manner, without a thorough understanding of the laws of modern battle. There are times when one meets senior commanders who have only a formal attitude toward setting up cooperation. For example, during one exercise the officers on the staff headed by Captain 2nd Rank S. Zheliba forgot to define the method ships would use to communicate with the command post, the reporting sequence and other important issues. The chief of staff answered the natural questions as regards this with the brief instructions, "Operate according to the situation..." Such an example by senior officers does not increase the responsibility of subordinates.

And there is also the other extreme. There are places where commanders are given instruction in such a manner before going to sea that they are afraid to deviate one iota from the instructions that were given on shore. It is clear that there can also not be cooperation in this case. Indeed, cooperation assumes creative, conscious, cooperative work that results from a specific analysis of the situation at hand and not the mechanical execution of some stereotype schematic.

For the mastery of clear, harmonious cooperation in battle to bring the desired result we have to teach how cooperation should work in daily military training. The way we tune up a complicated, diverse mechanism is the way it will manifest itself in a situation. And we must clearly recognize that everything in the Pacific Fleet is still not going well in this area. One still sometimes runs into various types of disconnects in the plans of various ships and units, cases of hindsight by individual officials and, at times, simply the basic inability to organize, all of which hinder cooperation.

For example, at one exercise the crews of the escort ship Poryvistiy and a small anti-submarine ship were unable to show the necessary level of cooperation with resolving a joint mission. The reasons were hidden in what would seem to be small and insignificant omissions by individual specialists. But the danger of such "minor things" is that they can quickly spread, far surpassing the limits of a single ship.

And things such as bureaucraticism and a seniority-type approach, which show up every once in a while in our Naval, require special discussion. For example, one day it was reported to me that the aviators in the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel N. Samoylov would not be able to carry out their flights at the volume planned for an exercise for supposedly objective reasons. As a consequence, it was explained that the aviators who had completed their particular missions and who had received record evaluations did not want to bother themselves with fully supporting the surface ships.

Today we say the bureaucraticism is a negative style trait. But let's think about what bureaucraticism would mean in battle? And you have to evaluate it from this aspect. We have to make very strict demands on those who do not want to go past their personal interests and do not want to think and act in the interests of the entire Navy.

Political agencies and party and Komsomol organizations are urged to say their own weighty word on this matter. Restructuring the opinions of the military cadre is a problem that includes restructuring their psychology, during the course of which they develop a truly state approach to their own activities. The needs to strengthen the military potential of the Armed Forces demands this.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

SKETCH OF NORTHERN FLEET SUBMARINE COMMANDER

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 86 p 6

[Article by Nikolay Cherkashin, Red Banner Northern Fleet: "The Heaving Ice"]

> [Text] And suddenly there where human feet had never trod and an avian wing had never flashed, in the icy Arctic waste, the white oceanic armor bulges and cracks and the ice literally forms the side of a pitcher. Then a black conning tower grows up amid the unfallen "crocks." This is how nuclear submarines surface at a certain point in the Arctic Sea, right at its crowning point, the North Pole.

During the years when the hero of this report was beginning his service in the submarine fleet, the American submarines Nautilus and Sargo were already breaking through the Arctic ice dome, calculating the track of possible missile strikes on Siberia, the Urals, Central Russia ... We were forced to master the ability to cruise in all the oceanic expanses. A quarter of a century ago the Soviet nuclear submarine Leninskiy Komsomol went under the earth's polar cap, surfaced at the pole and planted the USSR State and Navy flags.

The nuclear submarine commanded by Captain 1st Rank Valentin Vladimirovich Protopopov, recently given the rank of Hero of the Soviet Union, now departs from these now historic moorings to cruise under the ice.

I visited him in the remote polar garrison and this sailor's song written by some Northern Fleet sailor was always in my ears:

> There are few birds here -- there are more helicopters.
> There are no forests here -- there are just hills and water.
> For you are at the high latitudes.
> You could go further north, but where would you be?

I did not learn about these areas from songs. I served in one of the neighboring fjords on a diesel submarine and was even now able to shorten this road cut in granite and snow-drifts with a former co-worker, now an officer in the political section, Ivan Tataritskiy. He was the one who told me that the nuclear submarine which Protopopov commanded had the longest name in the Navy

-- Shestdesyat Let Shefstva VLKSM; that in 1980 he had surfaced at the geographical pole; that Protopopov's crew had been awarded the Minister of Defense's's Pendant for Bravery and Military Valor; and that the ship had confirmed its rank of "Excellent" for the third year in a row. And I also found out that during a recent cruise sailors from that ship had taken the flag of the legendary Great Patriotic War submarine K-21, the Red Banner ship that had been commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union N. Lunin. Front-liners had handed them the flag like a relay baton.

At the barrier a sailor in a sheepskin coat compared the photograph in my passport with the bearded original and finally, after reluctantly recognizing the likeness and with Tataritskiy's guarantee, he let the vehicle pass. We entered a normal ravine in the mountainous tundra that was in no way remarkable if you did not know that this lost bay was also the cradle of the Soviet nuclear submarine fleet. The Fatherland's first nuclear submarine, the noted Leninskiy Komsomol that was the first to cross under the pole, left for the ocean from these hilly shores. And the around-the-world loop by the detachment under Rear Admiral A. I. Sorokon began and ended at these piers exactly twenty years ago.

The nuclear submarine with the "longest name in the Navy" was fortunately in base. From afar it looked like a gigantic torpedo with a crest of the sloped conning tower. Up close it really resembled a black whale which had pushed its sharp tail out of the water. Its resemblance to a huge and gentle animal gave one the sensation of good natured power.

The crew came out of their compartments, formed up on the hull and prepared to transfer to their shore accommodations. And then I caught sight of the man that, strictly speaking, I had come for. The tall, blond-mustached Captain 1st Rank with the duty officer's blue-white fillet walked along the mooring front and used his master's eye to glance over the people in his crew, the snow-covered ship and the sea itself, frosted beyond color and drowsily giving off white steam.

This was the most senior and experienced "under-ice commander", Captain 1st Rank Protopopov. And just as his ship at first glance suggested an aura of reliable power, Protopopov gained the same with his first unhurried, impressive, thorough words. Of course, he had just enough time and our conversation had to be adjusted to the course of the endless command matters which were multiplied by the duties of the formation duty officer.

The geranium in the window and even the panorama on the white, sparsely forested hills were reflected in the green water of the training basin. Sailors dressed themselves in orange water-proof coveralls and went down to a floating mock-up where the eternal sea drama was repeated: water rushed in on the people and the people stopped it -- fighting for the ship's survivability and the lives of its crew. Protopopov answered my questions while glancing into the cut-away section of the compartment where his sailors were working in streams and sprays to close up the "hole" and strengthen the supports.

He told me how pack ice was treacherous and how it was difficult to break himself away from the periscope when the sun finally appeared through the ice.

The ribbon from the Order of the Red Banner glowed on his tunic.

The ice and a ship... Their collision is always a duel, sometimes with a tragic ending. The Titanic went down in four-kilometer-deep water after steaming its bottom out on the icy fang of an iceberg. The Chelyuskin went into the deep, crushed by ice after heroic single combat. These are only the most noteworthy victims of icy battles. And how many are still unknown?

A special type of breed, the ice captains, has developed among the courageous seafarers here in the Arctic. These are the people who have guided their vessels through the ice fields since the time of the Yermak, Vaygach and Taymyr, not so much sailing as cleaving and crushing the hardened water. And the "under-ice captains", Heroes of the Soviet Union L. Zhiltsov, A. Petelin, Yu. Sysoyev and V. Chernavin, have replaced the honored cohorts of the northern seafarers. They have gone under water and then further, under the ice. This means that their level of habitual risk has doubled along with the level of responsibility. And are you really not talking about those who went under the Arctic, those who are all twice sailors, doubly brave and doubly honored?

Protopopov told me about submarine currents, the relief along the lower edge of the ice fields... If one so desired, it would have been easy to imagine that our conversation was taking place somewhere in the offices of the Geographical Society.

He talked quietly, correctly and laconically. I had already been deceived by the gentleness of his manners when suddenly he had to give an order and the command style was instantly in his "professional" voice. The chopped words of drill commands erupted from his lips as naturally as scientific terminology. And yet his face struck me as the face of a man who was able to drive his feelings within his spirit regardless of his nervous system, the face of a man who had experienced things that were unknown to the majority of us...

Protopopov is one of those people who, like a lighting rod, attracts the military anxieties of the age so that others may live more calmly among the world's cares. But they are not unmarked by the lighting and therefore the commander looked older than his forty seven years. And neither sun tan from the quartz lamp nor the training on the exercycle can hide the stamp of this great state concern. Although during the cruise Protopopov "pedaled" the distance from Leningrad to Murmansk

Protopopov is a name out of the pages of naval history. A Captain-Lieutenant Protopopov who commanded the frigate Krym distinguished himself as long ago as the first defense of Sevastopol. Was he a forefather?

Valentin Vladimirovich answered, "I do not know. My genealogy was interrupted when my father fell at Stalingrad. He was the one who could have told you..."

The genealogy was interrupted with the father, but continued in the son. The grandchild of a fallen front line soldier and son of a naval commander, cadet Vadim Protopopov is finishing the very same academy, the Leningrad Higher

Naval School of Submarine Navigation imeni Lenin Komsomol, from which his father graduated. Last year he did his probationary work on his father's ship and went to sea for deep water submersion exercises. And you know, it is possible that yet another Protopopov, the younger one, may take his place at this ship's command periscope.

"I went through everything for twenty years for one of them and now I'll do the same for the other one," sighed Protopopov's wife Larisa Ivanovna. "Larisa" means "sea gull" and the name has predicted her fate: the sea gull is destined to live an age with sailors.

We spent an evening together, the two Protopopov and I. They have the normal sailors quarters: sailors minted in copper, book shelves, prints of submarines, coral in the sideboard and a family album completely filled with camp photographs. A dark conning tower sticking up through the Arctic ice. A polar bear climbing from the ice-floe onto the ship's hull -- for curdled milk. Protopopov at his control center handing cake to a warrant officer celebrating his naming day. Engineer-mechanic Valeriy Pavlovich Andropov, a bearded man with a sloped forehead and mocking eyes, photographed in such a way that you would say that he is in the depths of the ice fields: behind him is a small green lake in the birchwood and there are fishermen in the reeds. Some will see a hint of Meshcherskiy in this unsophisticated landscape and others will recognize the Siberian Kray, but Protopopov remembers his native Podmoskovye, the land linking him with home. The pictorial scene covers the entire wooden bulkhead of the wardroom.

The sailors' genealogy is not determined by their blood lines alone. Its lines go from ship to ship, from navy to navy. And my hero's line certainly dates back from the commander of the submarine Som, desperate Lieutenant Trubetskiy, who risked crossing the ice-filled strait between Skryplev and Russkiy Islands in 1905. And the commander of the Kefal, Warrant Officer V. Merkushev, whose ship lifted ice with its deck for the first in the world is also in this chain. And then there is Captain 3rd Rank Zaydulin, the "Stakhanovets of the Polar Region", his "pike" was the first submarine to cross the ice of the North Sea route in pre-war times. These are the roots, and the crown is interwoven into a fantastic pattern of naval service. We had scarcely begun to look for common acquaintances when we found out that: my former commander, Captain 1st Rank Ye. Nevyarovich, had at one time been Protopopov's executive officer; Protopopov's present executive officer, Captain 2nd Rank Usenko, had done his cadet probationary work on our ship; and that Petr Denisovich Grishchenko, the commander of the Baltic submarine L-3 that had become famous during the war, and Rear Admiral A. Pushkin, one of our first under-ice nuclear submariners, (during my navy service I had been involved with both) had been even more important to Protopopov's life. Protopopov had studied naval tactics under Grishchenko as a cadet and Pushkin, then flag officer for a task force, had helped the young officer take his first steps along the difficult path of a commander.

We were walking along the pier. The northern lights, a sparkling, rainbowed ribbon that looked like a fracture in the enormous ice-floe, were blazing over our heads. The bark on the pockmarked-marked birch trees was splitting from the frost and the noise was disrupting the sea gulls' cries. And yet they

were not making a hubbub, but were only complaining mournfully. As usual, I had forgotten my mittens somewhere. They weren't in the barracks or in the simulator so now I was pulling my hands a little deeper into my sleeves. Protopopov noticed and took off his own gloves. "Here, take mine! I'm home and you still have a way to go."

He didn't just say this, he ordered it. And I didn't dare refuse, so I took them as a keepsake and for luck.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

ECONOMY OF EFFORT IN NAVAL TRAINING STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Apr 86 p 1

[Article by Captain 2nd Rank V. Gomenyuk, staff officer in the Pacific Fleet, Captain 2nd Rank V. Stashevskiy, assigned to the political section, and Captain 1st Rank Yu. Timoshchuk, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Military Training: Quality and Efficiency -- Productivity in Every Cruise Mile"]

> [Text] When we talk about tasks that have been accomplished we must ask ourselves the question, "At what cost?" The reason for intensifying our labor is to do more things better while expending less. Every ship commander, staff and political section officer and formation commander who sets out to develop and carry out a plan for military training at sea must constantly be concerned about increasing the profit from every mile that the ship passes.
>
> Unfortunately there are still commanders and leaders who do not realize that economy and thrift are important indicators in military training efficiency today. And whereas on some ships the increase in voyage profitability is finding energetic, productive answers, on others there is not enough concern being given to reorienting to this plan (and this report with which we are completing the Krasnaya Zvezda raid that was made in those days confirms this).

Our raid began in one of the rooms at the Red Banner Pacific Fleet. It had special tables, maps and graphs with operational information about the activities of ships that were carrying out military training missions at sea. Rear Admiral B. Prikhodko familiarized us with the tactical situation and the integrated military training plan for the crews sea cruises. These plans contained several interesting tactical concepts and innovative goals. It is noteworthy that economic indicators which served as a stimulus for the tactical search and maximum use of technical and combat capabilities of organic weapons and equipment had their necessary place in the plan. The efficiency of every cruise mile and every training hour noticeably improved in those units and crews where all of this found a lively, active response.

For example, when we visited the nuclear cruiser Frunze in one of the

garrisons after it had returned to base and become acquainted with the crew's activities on the cruise, we found that the ship's commander, Captain 1st Rank Ye. Zdesenko, did not limit himself to just punctually fulfilling the plan as sent down from above. He added new elements to every stage carrying out the tasks at sea, complicated the training scenario and in a well-planned manner wedged his own training measures in the "windows" between general tasks. As a result, there wasn't a single hour while the Frunze was at sea that the crew didn't work at a highly productive level.

Comprehensive and careful preparations while in base certainly facilitated such cruise productivity. They learned and foresaw everything on the ship. When the cruiser's artillery men repulsed an aviation raid, navigational specialists followed a plan prepared earlier and learned to control the ship using the redundant system. And during this time the electrical and engineering division was developing methods for duplicating the power plants.

And the sailors of Guards Missile Cruiser Varyag took some interesting plans to sea. The ship's command element saturated the general tactical scenario with elements that stimulated a comprehensive study of computer and automated equipment and the development of skills to restore the survivability of the ship and its weapons if its equipment partially went out of action as a result of combat damage.

And this item is noteworthy. The Varyag enjoys no advantage over other ships in the amount of practical ammunition that it has used. However the quality of fire mission processing here is superior by far. The crew consistently, year after year, leads fire mission competition. The secret of its success is that personnel on the cruiser prepare not only to fire, which, as is known, does not occur every day. They also keep their seaman gunners constantly in shape by decisively eliminating training formalism, indulgence and oversimplifications. This is very valuable experience and everyone should adopt it, for it is a real path to acceleration.

However the raid showed that there are still people on some ships who are not actively responding to the initiator directions that were inserted into the plan for the military and political training of ships at sea. Also the experience of the forerunners has still not enjoyed the required dissemination. The commanders of some ships were not able to create the necessary work front for their subordinates or conditions for the active consolidation of military skills on cruise. Therefore, for example, cruise miles for the escort ship Poryvistiy became "unprofitable". It was necessary to adjust the entire cruise program and make it simpler. The reason for this was the superficial training at base and the knowledge gaps among specialists in the department headed by Captain 3rd Rank P. Avvakumov. And we pricked up our ears at the fact that during conversations with us this officer did not attempt to find the way to eliminate the reasons for this failure, but rather tried to justify his own failures in preparing the ship for its cruise. And this same type of attitude was apparent in the views of other officers in the crew. Evidently this escort ship's long leadership and the stable string of training and cruise successes had engendered a dangerous feeling of placidity and complacency in some of the personnel.

One wants to believe that the ship's command element and the party and Komsomol organizations are reaching this conclusion and will unmask the real reasons for the poor cruise efficiency.

And one of the ships in the unit where Captain 3rd Rank S. Shchelokov is serving also turned out to be poorly prepared. Outwardly it seemed that they had accomplished some solid training: they had developed plans and graphs, published orders and held meetings and conferences devoted to effective training at sea. But nonetheless they did not reach this effectiveness. All of the measures planned for the cruise came to an inefficient cruise for the small anti-submarine ship commanded by Senior Lieutenant V. Alekseyenko.

And we cannot summarize without including the shortcomings of submariners. According to a report at Fleet Headquarters, the submarine crew where officer V. Ruzhnikov is serving successfully passed all course tasks. But despite that report, the rosy tone of that enthusiastic written report faded during the exercise on the training range because of discrepancies caused by the poorly prepared equipment.

The question that comes up is: how could the officers from the unit's headquarters and political section accept the submariners' course mission if they did not detect these shortcomings? Their formalistic approach gave us the answer: As a result, this ship's cruise also left its "track" in the accounts of material resources that were consumed.

The indicated facts look isolated against the generally positive background. But they are convincing testimony that there will be no real motion forward, nor can there be, in those locations where the directive to accelerate and increase the effectiveness of military training does not have the conscious support of the specific actors and where appeals and best wishes are a substitute for laborious organizational work.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

SKETCH ON NUCLEAR SUBMARINE COMMANDER

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 86 p 2

[Article by Capt 2nd Rank V. Shirokov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Pacific Fleet, under the rubric "Delegates to the 27th CPSU Congress": "Commander of a Nuclear Submarine"]

[Text] The nuclear submarine approached the pier as though "led" by computers: in the infinitely diverse movements of machinery and people, in the maneuver "curve," one sensed that optimal level, that mathematical precision, which immediately reveals the presence of an "electronic brain." The mooring of a ship, however, is just such a process which can still not be turned over to electronic computers. The programming of the operation, into which inumerable factors--from an unexpected change of mooring sites, an increase in the wind or a drop in visibility to the arrangement of the mooring parties--are constantly intruding, would be too extensive. And what cannot be handled by a computer is done by man.

The flag officer, coming upon the submarine, which was returning from a long cruise, automatically became engrossed in Captain 2nd Rank M. Pukhov's mooring operation. Loaded down with a never-receding swell of concerns, he had just climbed nervously out of his vehicle and begun mechanically measuring off the pier with his steps. He had watched the approaching nuclear submarine with unseeing eyes. Suddenly, however, everything went out of his mind except the mooring of the boat. Sometimes, a leaf falling from a tree suddenly does something to the human soul which no psychologist can do. Or spring shining in the first pool of water.... We know the name of this "unseen" force: beauty. Nature creates it easily. Human beings do so with great difficulty. And we can therefor appreciate man-made beauty all the more.

The commander descended the ramp to the admiral and was embraced by the latter. He was embraced for what he and his crew had done at sea: it is a fact that feats and long cruises are most frequently listed side by side in the sailors' award lists.

In his fur (kanadka), which had replaced his light-weight, blue special-purpose clothing a few hours before, the first time in many weeks, Captain 2nd Rank Pukhov looked fresh, even mischievous. The admiral could not help noticing this. Only with youth is it possible to return from the depths with a healthy glow. And only with experience is it possible to return with success. It is difficult to combine these qualities, and the commander who possesses them is all the more valuable to the fleet.

Mikhail Gennadiyevich Pukhov had turned 33 when, 3 years before, he had taken a nuclear submarine to sea on his own for the first time. He had just completed his training and returned to his unit, and he had no idea how the question of making him a ship commander had been decided. Captain 1st Rank V. Bederdinov, former commander of the submarine, was considered one of the best not just in the submariner unit, but in the Pacific Fleet. Everyone on the crew, including Pukhov himself, who had served as executive officer on the same submarine prior to the training, had the highest opinion of him, a person who had received a great deal of schooling in the fleet and had extensive experience as a submariner. When he measured himself against Bederdinov's prestige, he experienced something akin to timidity and could not help thinking to himself that he was perhaps not yet up to the commander's burden.

Pukhov's youth was a source of concern to others as well, and other, considerably more experienced officers were therefore also being considered as candidates for the position which was being freed. When it became known that Bederdinov's former executive officer had been appointed commander, however, the people in the unit accepted this as only proper. Communist Pukhov's rapid development as a seagoing officer on a nuclear submarine had earned him prestige in the command element and among his comrades.

Rapid progress is characteristic of people today. Strong and goal-oriented people capable of mastering in a matter of months that which previously took years and of mastering in a matter of years that which previously took decades. The impossible does not exist for them. They are inspired by that which brings others to a halt. They are people of today: acceleration is their element, and they are what sustains it. Wherever it is most difficult, where some people retreat, they show what they are made of, because they sincerely serve the cause, are not afraid of pressure or risk and do not have petty doubts or fears about ruining their careers.

Mikhail Pukhov's service career itself took off swiftly. Son of a submarine officer in the fleet, he did not agonize over what career to choose. He spent his time making himself ready for it as rapidly as possible. He could not wait to finish school. He received his certificate and was counting the days before leaving for the [military] school, when he suddenly learned that there had been a delay in sending his papers through the military commissariat. Someone had fouled something up. Although everyone told him that it was too late, he sent the papers himself, directly to the school chief. The answer came in a telegram: be here for the exams within 24 hours.

He arrived and went straight to an exam. He received a grade of "excellent" for the first exam, which he took immediately upon arriving, and then earned the same grade over and over again. Pukhov entered the party at the school, became a candidate sports master in swimming at the school, and it became clear at the school that the submarine fleet was the only thing for him. He learned early on that the more rapidly and precisely the goal is defined, the sooner it is achieved. This is axiomatic for the ship commander, an indicator of his tactical activeness and perhaps the most valuable fact a new lieutenant should learn.

In his service as an officer he has occupied many different positions and served in two fleets, acquiring and refining many different qualities in himself, among

which there were no incidental qualities, but only those needed by a commander. In one of his first commanders he saw the ability to instantly identify rationality in the thinking of subordinates. And he immediately and permanently made this kind of practical receptiveness his own style.

Everyone who has for whatever reason looked into the affairs of the outstanding crew has been struck by the commander's magnificant understanding of his subordinates. I myself could not refrain from complimenting him when I noticed this.

"We all know one another as people who are lose. Anything else would be strange: large as the nuclear submarine is, its world is still close, especially on a cruise. However, the commander said somewhat slyly, touching his brushy mustache, "it is a poor commander who comes to know his men on a cruise...."

It turns out that the crew was directly assigned just this task: to improve the sailors' knowledge of one another, to leave this not up to chance or the initiative of certain individuals, but to make it a system. Seaman B. Makhmudov suggested an interesting way to do this, one which the commander immediately approved. The seaman suggested that autobiographical assemblies be held in the evening, at which the seamen, warrant officers and officers would tell about themselves, about their families, about where they were born, about their interests and their plans for the future. Everything did not go smoothly at once, but a climate of sincerity and trust gradually developed. People learned that those with whom they were serving were extremely interesting, and new possibilities were opened up for influencing one another.

People will say that yes, of course, this is interesting, but has the commander not gone too far with the "lyrical"? Seagoing service is rigorous and filled with pressure, and you barely have time to deal with the important things. But if it is a matter of important things, being close to the men is the most important way to make the fullest possible use of the human factor. Therein lies the modernity, if you will, of today's commander. Here are some realities behind these words. The harmonious and united crew of the excellent nuclear submarine does not have many of the problems which plague other ships. Military discipline is always good, there is no hint of peculiarities in relations between seamen with different lengths of service, and mutual assistance makes it possible for the submariners to rapidly achieve professional mastery. Just that, mastery: the crew has now committed itself to achieve a record for the number of masters on a ship. The commander himself is referred to in the unit as a master in the combat employment of the weapons.

The ship consistently receives excellent ratings for missile and torpedo launchings. The crew won first place in a determined struggle in competitive missile launchings in the Navy last year, and it was previously awarded the USSR Minister of Defense's Pennant for Courage and Military Valor. These heights are not easily attained, however. There are no beaten paths leading to them. And in general, only a commander who possesses creative individuality and tactical originality can be truly strong. Captain 2nd Rank Pukhov's torpedo launchings are hard to match. Commander Pukhov's creativity is based on the highest level of professional skill on the part of the combat team and the entire crew.

He is sometimes reproached for being inclined to take excessive risks, asked whether it is worth deliberatly making his tasks harder. Yes, it is sometimes possible to get by with the reliable and traditional in a training battle with its inevitable conventionalities. And an excellent rating sometimes depends not so much upon the method used to achieve the result as upon the result itself. The commander has the right to set more rigid criteria for the excellent rating, however. Mikhail Gennadiyevich himself admits that he is prompted to do this by the experience of those who fought at the front line: Pukhov applies that which some people only take cognizance of.

He is still excited by the remarkable attacks carried out by V. Starikov (one of the first three submarine commanders awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union during the war). During the war the M-171 submarine commanded by Starikov made 29 combat cruises, incomparably more than any other submarine in the Northern Fleet. And each of them was distinguished by the commander's skill and the selflessness of the seamen. The entire crew of the "little one" were awarded orders for one fall cruise in 1941 alone.

As a young officer Pukhov met the renowned submariner more than once and gained from him that which has now become Pukhov's own trademark: a striving for the very best results in the performance of any mission. Valentin Georgiyevich Starikov had a Komsomol crew. Captain 2nd Rank Pukhov has a youth crew, as he puts it. Perhaps this is because there is a constant renewing of the personnel on the missile carrier.

When the crew is strong, the people should develop rapidly, Mikhail Gennadiyevich feels.

During the 3 years in which he has commanded the nuclear submarine, many officers have been promoted out of the crew. There is a new executive officer on the ship right now, for example, Captain 3rd Rank S. Borisov; Captain 3rd Rank V. Sidnev was recently made chief of the radiotechnical service; Senior Lieutenant N. Vashurkin was just named commander of the mine and torpedo division, and other officers have been promoted. The crew's capability does not suffer, however. Helping to make this possible are a strong party organization, the best in the unit, an outstanding Komsomol organization, which has been awarded the prize of the Komsomol Central Committee "For Mastery of the New Equipment and Weapons," and the commander's ability to inspire and motivate the submariners to work vigorously and selflessly.

Captain 2nd Rank G. Yelikhin, political worker on the ship, was once asked from whom he learned how to work with people. He replied without hesitation: the commander. And the commander willingly learns from Yelikhin.

The crew of the nuclear submarine is now readying itself for new cruises. This too is very intense work, and without the commander (the submariners stare at the television screen and try to spot him among the delegates in the enormous hall of the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses), there are far more difficulties. No matter where the commander is, however, he is always there with the crew, and the crew is accustomed to feeling that Captain 2nd Rank Pukhov is alongside them even during those rare hours when he is absent.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

HISTORIC SUBMARINE CIRCUMNAVIGATION RECOUNTED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 86 p 6

[Article by Lt Col Studenikin, PRAVDA special correspondent, Leningrad: "A Circle in Hydrospace: It Ran Through Seas and Oceans Where Russian Sailors Had Not Traveled in More Than a Hundred Years"]

> [Text] Twenty years ago a detachment of Soviet nuclear submarines commanded by Rear Admiral Anatoliy Ivanovich Sorokin made a heroic round-the-world cruise. They traveled 25,000 miles underwater without surfacing.

In the files of the Central Naval Museum in Leningrad I was shown an extraordinary manuscript journal, "Chronicle of a Cruise, or 25,000 Underwater." Twenty years ago it was turned over to the museum by the deputy for political affairs on one of the submarines--subsequently Hero of the Soviet Union, Vice Admiral Nikolay Vitalyevich Usenko. The journal contains articles, the ship's record and drawings by members of the crew.

"The detachment commander has given the order to cast off. It is 36 degrees below freezing, and the ice is 100 millimeters thick." At that point a telegram arrived from the Main Naval Staff: "You will be passing through seas and oceans where Russian sailors have not traveled in more than 100 years. We firmly believe that you will successfully surmount all difficulties and carry the Soviet Navy Flag with honor through three oceans and many seas"!

...It was a cold February night in 1966. Leaving the base, the nuclear submarines set out to sea. They departed to the west but would return to the homeland a month and a half later from the east, from the opposite side of the planet. The sailors were aware of the great trust they enjoyed and the great responsibility with which they were charged. They would travel an enormous distance along unexplored routes, in the depths of three oceans and numerous seas, and would cross the equator several times. They departed not to set a record or to create a noisy sensation: they were to become familiar with, "learn to feel at home in," the mysterious underwater world, to test the complex installations, systems and machinery under various climatic conditions, to put together numerous observations of the World Ocean's hydrological conditions. Most important, they were to work out interaction, communication, control and tactical procedures.

"One needs to have a good understanding of the military-political situation at that time," a participant in the cruise, now Rear Admiral (Reserve) V. Kanevskiy, explained in the editorial office. "The fact is that a year earlier a Triton nuclear submarine of the U.S. Navy had made a round-the-world underwater cruise, and this provided the Americans with an excuse to announce to the entire world that they had absolute superiority in the World Ocean, not only on the water but beneath the water as well. There came into being the dangerous concept of the "unchallenged nuclear strike" from submarines reliably concealed by a mass of water and ice. Programs for the next phase in the arms race were being implemented at accelerated rates in the USA: it wanted to confront our nation with a fait accompli, the creation of a strategic underwater missile capability. We were forced to accept the challenge in order to achieve parity. And this is why our cruise was of such great importance.

"I want to say right off that it was planned to conduct our cruise under more rigid conditions: the Triton was accompanied by support ships which assisted the submarine throughout its cruise, for example. Our nuclear submarines covered the entire distance without surfacing...."

"And how did the cruise go"?

"It was normal," Vasiliy Avramovich said. "If one could only have watched the nuclear submarines tearing along with the speed of express trains! It was apparently a fascinating scene! Inside the solid hull, however, we did not even sense the speed. We could sometimes only guess where we were. If the water in the shower was 27-30 degrees, this meant that we were crossing the equator. In Drake Strait we felt a slight rolling and could only imagine what was occurring on the surface. In the Pacific Ocean we were pursued for an entire week by a terrible whistling sound: it turned out to be a herd of killer whales which had accompanied us for such a long time...."

Yes, that extraordinary cruise took place under the most normal conditions. The submariners worked and trained, took up their battle stations during alerts, accepted new party and Komsomol members, celebrated birthdays of comrades and other holidays. In the "Chronicle of a Cruise," there is not a single entry which even hints in any way that the crew was adding some brilliant new chapters to the history of the Soviet fleet.

One of the pages in the journal is titled "The First Miles." It reports that "the watch at sea was begun by the first combat shift (Verkhovykh, Andronov...); we celebrated the birthdays of A.A. Lysenkov and V.N. Chirkov; the first rationalization proposal was submitted by V.A. Polezhayev; the first articles were written by S.P. Chervonyy."

Under the rubric "Important Dates" there is the report that N.A. Prokopovich and P.N. Kilivnik joined the CPSU, that a Soviet spacecraft had reached the surface of Venus, that a soft landing had been made on the moon and that the personnel had assumed precongress watch....

Many days had now been marked off on the sailors' calendars: on the surface of the seas and oceans storms and hurricanes alternated with gentle calm, day was replaced by night, but in the steel hull and the cramped compartments the submariners' time was measured in watches. And none of the fellows had any idea at

that time that within a very short time Petty Officer 2st Rank Nikolay Prokopovich, Komsomol organizer on the first shift who had just been accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU, that this 20-year-old youth from Gzhatsk would become a holder of the Order of Lenin, would be sent as a delegate from the fleet Komsomol to the 25th Komsomol Congress, that he would be the one who would present to the congress presidium the navy flag under which the nuclear submarine had performed its historic circumnavigation! They had no idea that other seamen would be awarded orders and medals or that a group of officers and Rear Admiral Sorokin, commander on the voyage, would be awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

I visited with one of them, Rear Admiral Lev Nikolayevich Stolyarov, commander of a nuclear submarine and now chief of the Nakhimov Naval School in Leningrad, in his office.

"We knew, of course, that it was an important and unusual cruise," the admiral said. "V.N. Chernavin, chief of staff of the submarine force and now Commander in Chief of the USSR Navy, was directly involved in preparing our nuclear submarine. The preparations were very thorough. There were young lieutenants out of engineering schools on the submarine crews. For them the cruise was unquestionably an 'underwater academy' which opened up vast horizons. However, that historic cruise is also a unique school for boys today who feel the call of the ocean depths.

...At the 23rd CPSU Congress the USSR Minister of Defense reported to the delegates that long submarine cruises had demonstrated the ability of our glorious seamen to successfully carry out any combat mission in the ocean expanses, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. And those who created the powerful ships and who also took part in the cruise made the final entry in the "Chronicle of a Cruise":

"Our joint cruise through three oceans and numerous seas has now ended. For almost 2 months we were part of a congenial underwater family. Thanks to your warm and gracious attention every hour and every day, whether it was just after leaving the harbor or when our nuclear submarine was on the other side of the planet, we did not feel lonely or cut off from our native shores.

"This cruise confirmed once again the fact that the modern combat equipment entrusted to you has operated reliably and without breakdown because it was prepared and operated by experienced navy cadres. Protect the peace"!

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NAVAL AFFAIRS

ACCOUNT OF MINESWEEPER JOURNEY THROUGH ICE FLOES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 86 p 1

[Report by Capt 3rd Rank S. Ishchenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Red Banner Northern Fleet: "Through the Ice"]

[Text] A powerful wind had lashed the coast from the ocean the day before. The strong berthing hawsers had groaned, and the wooden berth, which had been through a lot, creaked under its force. The crew of the minesweeper commanded by Captain Lieutenant S. Lavrinenko had spent the entire night in a state of readiness to combat the rampaging hurricane. In the morning, when the wind had died down, it was time to go to sea to support operations in the training area of a nuclear submarine. The captain lieutenant reported at headquarters on the ice reconnaissance: vast fields of solid ice drifting to the south.

The commander transferred the information onto a map and could see that they would need to beware of ice. Since it is clear that a minesweeper is not an icebreaker, there was some delicate work ahead: support of the nuclear submarine could not be disrupted, and in no case could they afford to get stuck in the ice.

The bay steamed, and gray serpentine streamers of fog swept toward the minesweeper after it cast off from its berth. The signalmen on the bridge extensions hid their faces behind the collars of their fur coats. Their reports were not particularly cheerful. Few people are enthusiastic about standing watch aloft in such weather. And that day's trip itself was not the kind about which one dreams. Captain Lieutenant Lavrinenko had long since grown accustomed to putting off unpleasant thoughts, however, and burying himself in immediate matters. Right now, he and Senior Lieutenant A. Kusenko, the navigator, were figuring out possible routes to the area. There was no time to spare, and they would have to maintain a high speed. However, Senior Lieutenant A. Khomenko, mechanical engineer, had asked them not to push the engines unless absolutely necessary--that is, not to get into situations in which everything possible would have to be squeezed out of them. The commander could not ignore his request. The prudence and competence of the mechanic had helped to significantly prolong the periods between repairs for the ship and to save fuel and engine life. Naturally, this is a concern also of the ship commander. And since this is the case, they took the trouble to make every provision in advance and to find the golden mean which would make it possible to achieve efficiency throughout. Somewhat earlier, such an approach would have been called stingy, not characteristic of people who like to do things in

the big navy way. Today, it is called competence, prudence and thrift, which no modern ship commander can do without.

Captain Lieutenant S. Lavrinenko has commanded the minesweeper less than a year. One would think that he would still have a long way to go to achieve the commander's subtle wisdom. A different approach is taken to the officer's development in his position today, however. The more energetically it is accomplished, the greater the benefit to the fleet. And it is important for the commander himself to understand this.

The ship was far from one of the best when Lavrinenko took over. The previously mediocre workers are now sincerely convinced that it is simply disgraceful to do less than one's best in the service and on the job. This moral readjustment is perhaps the main thing the energetic and searching commander has managed to achieve. And the crew's reputation immediately began to rise. On the eve of the 27th party congress the minesweeper became an undisputed leader in the socialist competition.

...The minesweeper pitched only slightly in the waves. It had not even encountered any ice. The commander relaxed.

"Surface target straight ahead!" the radar operator suddenly reported.

The next sentence puzzled the commander even more:

"Coastline straight ahead."

The coast? How can that be? The navigator had precisely plotted the curvature of the nearby coastline along which the minesweeper was traveling. The position was determined regularly and carefully.

"Is there ice even here?" the alarming thought flashed through his mind. It took time, however, to properly study the situation and determine that there really was a drifting ice field ahead.

To the left was the coast, to the right the edge of the training area, which it was strictly forbidden to enter. The only thing left to do was to break through the ice.

It is not unusual to sail in ice in the northern seas. No ship commander, however, and particularly no commander of a ship such as a minesweeper, would voluntarily do so.

"Steady on course!" the officer nonetheless ordered.

The first ice floes were encountered 20 minutes later. They were small and not dense, and they did not pose a danger. A head wind was blowing, and it is easier to enter an ice field from the leeward side: the ice is not so dense there. As they advanced the ice floes grew denser. It became more difficult to turn aside from them. However, Lavrinenko was more disturbed by a floating field of solid ice without a single dark spot showing through.

The practice alarm signal resounded in the passageways and crew's quarters, and the minesweeper knifed into the ice. It proved difficult to hold the ship firmly on course. Oncoming large ice floes struck the stem, now on the right, now on the left. People grabbed onto whatever they could on the bridge, as they do in a storm. Inside the ship's prow a damage control party was prepared to deal with holes.

And the ship continued to gnaw its way into the ice. The commander now understood that it was not a matter of how long the field was, but how dense. There was every indication, however, that the wind had succeeded in driving only the more "maneuverable" small ice floes here toward the coast. Clear water could now be plainly seen ahead. There was rejoicing on the ship. The signalmen were the first to fall silent. Their binoculars anxiously investigated the very edge of an ice field, and the eye could not make out a single crack in the huge, long ice floe. It had apparently broken off somewhere far in the north.

Lavrinenko's back was instantly soaked. Everyone on the bridge was looking at him; he was looking at the ice.

The minesweeper drove into the ice like an ax into a dry log. The ship had only a small gap, several dozen meters, for withdrawing. The commander backed the ship up before the gap could close and then immediately sent it into the ice again.

Captain Lieutenant Lavrinenko saw the horizon tilt, seeking the natural vertical.... At that point the ice split with a crash. Lying over on its side, the split-off chunk of ice dislodged itself from the bow of the ship and sank into the water.

The commander straightened his cap, the only sign of emotion he permitted himself.

An orderly suddenly appeared with tea, although he reported that only two intact glasses were left in the wardroom.

The commander expressed regret about the glasses, driving out thoughts about what would have happened had they not split the ice floe.

The navigator was alongside him, as well as the executive officer, the deputy for political affairs and the mechanical engineer. Together with him, they had looked deeply into the eyes of danger, as sometimes happens in the navy.

When the watch officer began to enter the time of exit from the ice field, he looked with disbelief at his watch. He shook it and held it against his ear. The watch was running, however, and it showed the correct time. The episode with the ice, it turned out, had actually not lasted as long as it had seemed to everyone.

...Altering its course sharply, the minesweeper entered the training area.

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MILITARY-EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

EDITORIAL: CRITIQUE OF PRACTICES AT SOME MILITARY SCHOOLS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 86 p 1

[Editorial: "The Military School--A Model of Regulation Order"]

[Excerpts] Among the priority tasks facing the military school today is increasing the effectiveness of the communist, military and moral indoctrination of the students and cadets, intensifying the training process through the use of electronic computers and other modern training means and methods, and strengthening its connection with life and with the practical needs of the troops and naval forces.

Maintaining a high level of discipline in the training process, organization and order in all areas having to do with the preparation of military cadres constitutes an important condition for the accomplishment of these tasks. It is highly important to steadily improve discipline, organization and order also because it is precisely the military educational institution--academy, school and institute--with its structure of life and its training and indoctrinational process, its strict and precise daily schedule, which must provide the pattern which the graduates will use for organizing their independent work among the troops and in the fleets.

For years now one has heard good things about graduates of the Alma-Ata Higher Combined Arms Command School imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union I.S. Konev and the Sumy Higher Artillery Command School imeni M.V. Frunze. According to reports from the forces most of them are skillful commanders and indoctrinators and active champions of regulation order. They were trained as such by the schools, of course, by the environment created there, an environment of absolute adherence to the daily schedule and precise organization of the training and indoctrinational process and the service of the daily duty detail.

This is not the case at all military educational institutions, however. A high level of organization and order has still not been achieved at some of them--at the Yaroslavl Higher Antiaircraft Missile Air Defense Command School imeni 60th Anniversary of Great October and the Tolyatti Higher Military Construction Command School, for example. They have not eliminated breaches of the daily schedule and the service of the daily duty detail or the formal handling of the morning inspection, the evening roll-call and inspection parades. All of this lowers the quality of the training and indoctrination and creates the preconditions for infractions of military discipline.

It is impossible to maintain regulation order without a high level of daily demandingness of the cadets. It must be exercised from the first to the final days of training and be directed toward instilling in them a sense of duty, efficiency, discipline and an inner need to act in strict accordance with regulations in all matters pertaining to the service and their conduct. At the same time, the demandingness must be totally free of any kind of rudeness, tactlessness or arrogance. We must see a future officer in every cadet, concern ourselves with his military development and instill in him skills in performing indoctrinational work with subordinates and the need to be spiritually close to them, to share their interests, to know their needs and requests.

The entire life and atmosphere of the VUZ and the personal example of commanders and instructors must contribute to the development of these qualities. The future officer needs a role model as does no one else. Every instructor and every commander of a cadet subunit is expected to provide such a model. Unfortunately, we are still not always selecting the best commanders and instructors to work at the schools. Officers who are not highly efficient and do not have good moral qualities are sometimes assigned to VUZs. This is detrimental to the important work of training and indoctrinating the cadets. What kind of example could Major V. Ploskin, former commander of a cadet subunit at the aforementioned Yaroslavl school, set for his subordinates, for example, when he himself committed gross infractions of military discipline, abused alcohol and was expelled from the party? And similar cases are to be found at certain other schools. This kind of screening of cadres for the VUZs is unacceptable.

The study of the general military regulations has a large role with respect to strengthening organization and order and the systematic development of a commander's qualities in the cadets. Classes on this subject should be assigned to the more experienced commanders and teachers and to officers with legal training. It is very important for the knowledge acquired to be reinforced by the very structure of life, one which helps to bolster the regulations at the practical level. No kind of class and not even the most talented teacher will produce success if words and deeds are not one, if what the cadet learns does not correspond totally to that which he encounters in his daily life.

Well organized everyday life and leisure-time activities for the cadets determine to a significant degree the order and rhythm of life at the VUZ. The barracks, mess halls and clubs have been renovated and medical services have been improved in recent years at many military educational institutions. These matters must continue to receive the attention of the command element, the political organs and service chiefs. A solid foundation is created for the productive training and service of the cadets by providing good living conditions and intelligent recreational opportunities, by achieving a quality daily life.

The party and Komsomol organizations are expected to provide the command element and the political organs with effective assistance in maintaining organization and regulation order. The Communists and Komsomol members must set an example in the fulfillment of their military duty, an example of principle and intolerance of shortcomings. They are required to take the leading role with respect to mobilizing people to strive to maintain firm regulation order and to create in the cadet collectives an atmosphere of mutual demandingness and exactingness, one which makes it impossible to tolerate infractions of discipline.

The 27th CPSU Congress stressed the fact that the better our discipline and organization are, the more rapidly we will advance. Achieving a situation in which every school is a model of organization and regulation order will go a long way toward predestining success in the accomplishment of those large tasks which face the military schools today and will be another step toward enhancing the officers' professional training and strengthening the combat capability of the Armed Forces.

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FOREIGN MILITARY AFFAIRS

PRAVDA DETAILS U.S. AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST LIBYA

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 86 p 5

[Article by A. Gorokhov: "Anatomy of an Act of Brigandage"]

[Text] The details of the American military's operation of brigandage against Libya are gradually coming out. This is how the picture is developing.

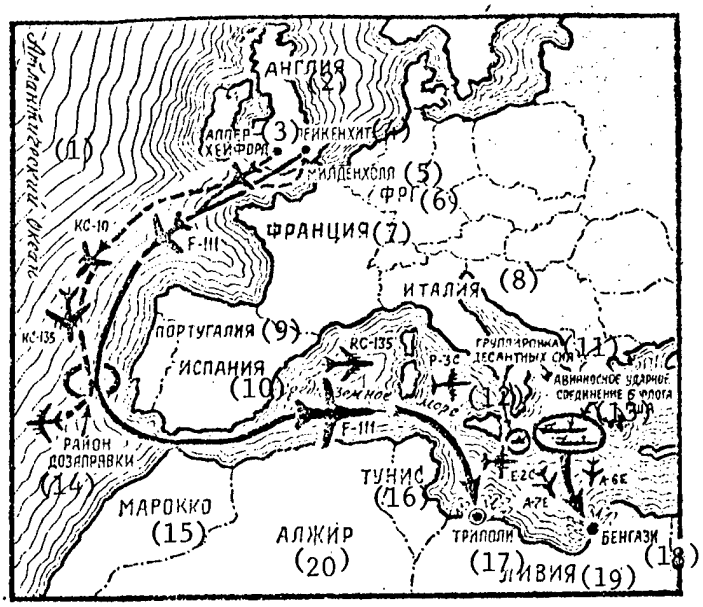
Late in the evening of 14 April 18 heavy F-111 heavy jet fighters of the 180 such aircraft based in Great Britain departed on a combat mission. One part of the group, which belonged to the 48th Tactical Air Wing, took off from the air base at Lakenheath; the other part, which belonged to the 20th Tactical Air Wing, departed from the base at Upper Heyford.

The group headed south. It would have to travel 5,150 kilometers to the target, the city of Tripoli, skirting the European continent. The direct route would have been far shorter, around 2,000 kilometers. It had not been possible to make the route a "bee-line," however, because of France and Spain's refusal to permit the group to fly over their territories. KC-10 and KC-135 airborne tankers therefore took off from the U.S. air base at Mildenhall simultaneously with the fighters. They had been transferred there 2 days before the operation began.

The refueling tankers "released" fuel laid in to support the barbarous action the first time in the skies over the Iberian Atlantic, an area adjacent to the Pyrenean Peninsula coast. The tankers then "broke away," as they say, from the route. The group flew over the Strait of Gibraltar and came out over the waters of the Mediterranean.

A significant circumstance: 3 days before the beginning of the operation Boeing RC-135 and Lockheed R-3C Orion reconnaissance aircraft appeared in the skies over the Mediterranean. Deck-based, long-range Grumman E-2C Hawkeye reconnaissance aircraft began continuous aerial reconnaissance of the targets on Libyan territory.

Approximately 5 hours after takeoff the group of F-111s descended and began forming up into combat formation, attempting to ensure the maximum effect from their combat employment. The navigational systems on the fighters can automatically hold the aircraft at an altitude of 50-60 meters. This clearly makes it easier "to skip across" the effective lines of the "enemy's" radar facilities. As a rule, radio-electronic warfare (REW) aircraft are also included in strike groups during combat operations to provide active jamming of air defense radar facilities.



Key:

1. Atlantic Ocean
2. England
3. Upper Heyford
4. Lakenheath
5. Mildenhall
6. FRG
7. France
8. Italy
9. Portugal
10. Spain
11. Airborne landing force
12. Mediterranean Sea
13. Deck-based strike force of U.S. 6th Fleet
14. Refueling area
15. Morocco
16. Tunisia
17. Tripoli
18. Benghazi
19. Libya
20. Algeria

The plan for the attacks on Tripoli and Benghazi was carefully gaged with respect to time and place. Deck-based aircraft of the U.S. 6th Fleet based on the aircraft carriers America and Coral Sea were sent against Benghazi.

The aircraft carrier America, which has a displacement of 78,000 tons at full load, was added to the battle fleet in 1965. It carries on board 93 combat planes and helicopters of various classes: A-7E Corsair and A-6E Intruder attack aircraft, F-14A Tomcat fighters, S-3A Viking ASW aircraft, long-range radar detection and REW aircraft, reconnaissance aircraft and ASW helicopters. In addition, 40 of the aircraft are capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The aircraft carrier Coral Sea is "somewhat older" and smaller than the America. However, it has on board the same number of nuclear weapons carriers and even more aircraft capable of operating as attack aircraft.

The aircraft carrier strike force of 20 combat ships had been maneuvering in the eastern part of the Ionian Sea east and southeast of Sicily, 180-200 miles from the coast of Libya.

Fifteen Corsairs and Intruders took off from the aircraft carriers and swept toward Benghazi. And around 0200, local time, on 15 April American bombs rained down upon Libyan cities....

11499
CSO: 1801/171

AFGHANISTAN

IRAN'S 'SUBVERSIVE' ACTS IN AFGHANISTAN CONDEMNED

NC201044 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Cordobez, the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy who was in Kabul recently to help find a political solution for problems in the area around Afghanistan, met and talked with Babrak Karmal, head of the DRA Revolutionary Council. During this meeting the Afghan leader expressed his readiness to contribute to the establishment of peace and good neighborly relations among all countries in the region.

This was stated at a time when imperialist governments, primarily the United States, are resorting to every possible means to exacerbate tension in the Middle East. They are also seeking to escalate the undeclared war which began against democratic Afghanistan immediately after the victory of the April revolution and the establishment of the republic.

Last year direct U.S. financial aid to Afghan counterrevolutionaries reached the $600 million mark. This year the White House has allocated about $500 million for the same purpose; and this is not the final amount. This money will be used to purchase weapons and to train and arm piratical bands which will be sent into democratic Afghanistan to carry out subversive and terrorist operations against the popular regime there. So far the counterrevolutionaries have destroyed 39 state industrial units, 250 mosques and houses of prayer, (?2807) schools, and 130 health centers. They murder those who do not wish to see the rule of feudalists and usurers return in their country and [words indistinct] the Afghan people who are helping to lay the foundations of a new life.

The imperialist circles have assigned the major role in the undeclared war against democratic Afghanistan to Pakistan. About 50 Afghan counterrevolutionary organizations and groups operate on Pakistani territory and more than 100 camps and military training centers for subversive bands have been set up there. Pakistani instructors, in cooperation with U.S. and other Western instructors, teach the brigands how to use the ultramodern arms,namely missiles, which the imperialist governments so generously place at the counterrevolutionaries' disposal.

Iran is also becoming more and more involved in the war against Afghanistan. Several Afghan counterrevolutionaries organizations such as the Maji'at-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Eslami are ensconced in Iran and about 20 training

camps for counterrevolutionaries have been set up there. Camps of this sort exist in Tehran, Qom, Yazd, Mashhad, Esfahan, and other Iranian cities. Iranian officials give extensive political and financial assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. They also help in the formation of groups of Afghan refugees living in Iran and send the members of these groups on subversive missions to their neighboring country.

The number of provocative acts by the Iranian armed forces on the border with Afghanistan has increased. Recently the DRA Government tendered a memorandum to Iran's representative in Kabul stating that in the current year alone Afghanistan's territory has been violated on 63 occasions by Iranian air and ground forces. These acts by Iranian officials fully serve the purposes of the forces of international imperialism and regional reaction. These forces have aggressive plans to destabilize the situation in Afghanistan, exacerbate tension throughout the region, and create favorable conditions for increased imperialist intervention in the domestic affairs of the countries of the region. In its memorandum the DRA Government called on Iranian officials to stop assisting counterrevolutionary groups that are implementing the Americans' plans and to refrain from propaganda designed to export the Islamic revolution. The memorandum pointed out that democratic Afghanistan will pay any price to defend its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security and that Iran will be entirely to blame (?for any repercussions that may result from its anti-Afghan policy).

/12929
CSO: 4640/318

AFGHANISTAN

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA NOTES AFGHAN ARMY SUCCESS

PM081430 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 may 1986 Second Edition carries on page 3 a boxed photofeature entitled "Destruction of a Dushman Lair."

The feature contains the following unattributed caption:

"As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, the Afghan army conducted a successful operation to eliminate a major Dushman base in Zhawara, Khowst district. The combat operations resulted in the destruction of 252 fortified fire positions. The bandits lost more than 2,000 killed, while the number of wounded, according to preliminary estimates, is double that figure; 49 arms dumps were captured, stocked in preparation for the summer military campaign. The captured material includes British-made antiaircraft missiles, portable 'surface to surface' missiles, antitank missiles, grenade launchers, recoilless rifles, and large-caliber machine guns.

"The victory in Khowst district is a serious warning to the bandits and those who sponsor them. This victory displayed the high standards of commanders' training and the bravery and combat skill of Afghan army soldiers.

"The photographs show: Nur Muhammad, who took part in the routing of the counterrevolutionaries; in the Zhawara region; this is where the Dushmans' Lair was."

The feature is completed by three photographs, each approximately 2 inches by 2 inches, credited by V. Budan of TASS.

One shows an Afghan serviceman; the second shows a section of mountain scenery with a cloud of smoke in the sky; and the third shows what appears to be debris around the blown-up entrance to a cave.

/12929
CSO: 1801/184

AFGHANISTAN

IZVESTIYA ON ANTI-GUERRILLA OPERATION IN DRA

PM091034 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 May 1986 Morning Edition publishes on page 4 a 750-word Kabul dispatch by special correspondent Yu Shtykanov entitled "The Fortress Was Thought Impregnable." It describes the Afghan army's recent anti-Dushman operation around Zhawara in the Khowst district of the DRA, in the course of which more than 2,000 Dushmans were reportedly killed, more than twice as many were injured, and 49 weapons dumps were captured. The correspondent says he was told at the DRA defense ministry that the success of the operation showed three things: "The good military training and high morale" of the Afghan army, "the hopelessness of the Afghan counterrevolution's armed struggle," and "the local population's all-around assistance and support for the government troops in the struggle against the Dushmans." The article is accompanied by photographs of an Afghan soldier, of a helicopter overflying a battle ground, and of a devastated "Wolf's Lair" apparently built into a cliff face.

/12929
CSO: 1801/184

AFGHANISTAN

LIFE OF SOVIET AIRMEN IN DRA PORTRAYED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 May 86 Morning Edition p 6

[Article from Kabul by V. Lukashin, IZVESTIYA special correspondent, under rubric "Reporting from Afghanistan": "Hot Skies"]

[Text] Executing an antimissile maneuver, the An-12, gaining altitude, circled over Kabul. Heavy bursts blazed around the aircraft like Bengal lights. "We are in the firing zone," I thought.

"Don't worry!" the commander explained. "Our gunner is working. See: the dushmans are scurrying about. There, on the summit! You know, most likely, 'surface-to-air' type missiles are seeking heat sources. Warrant Officer Bugayev is deflecting them with more powerful heat sources. And so we will not climb for now...."

When the aircraft finally turned on the required heading and the gorges of the Hindu-Kush stretched out in the distance, Major Sergey Konopolev once again turned his attention to me.

"What is the work like? Remember the film 'Air Carrier'? Practically about us. We carry ammunition, equipment, supplies. And recently Iosif Kobzon was a passenger. He sang for us also. Imagine: a concert above the clouds!"

You probably see some critical situations too?"

"Everything happens! We're used to it.... And altitude protects us. But helicopter pilots fly right over the ground.... They are called 'little bees' for a good reason."

I already knew about this. As a matter of fact, it is because of the helicoper pilots that I was flying to the "household" of Lieutenant Colonel Tselovalnik. Legends are going around Afghanistan about his "little bees."

Airmen, like sailors, have always had a reputation for their hospitality. And that is the way it was at this sunbaked airfield. For a start, Captain Boyko suggested settling in and washing up.

"We live in modules. Pick one out. There is a little room for one person. They just finished repairs. Half a year ago a missile hit.... They barely got it in shape. Now it is comfortable. Another version: A room for six people. Without conveniences, but then it will be cheery...."

I picked a room that was cheery. And Anton Petrovich continued to brief me.

"Remember: reveille is at four in the morning, breakfast is at five, and mission takeoff is at six. Settle in and come to the KDF [control tower]!"

The little houses in which the crews live are stretched out along the runway. Right next to it are the officers mess, movie area and sports complex. On a bench--an open book and a bouquet of unfamiliar blue flowers, reminiscent of forget-me-nots.

It is rarely quiet at this airfield, but today it is peaceful. All of the helicopters have left on a mission. They said that a battle is going on in the Torgar foothills with Mohamed Asef's band, which is terrorizing the inhabitants of the entire province. Back in Kabul, Lieutenant General Shakhnavaz Tanay, chief of the general staff of the Afghan army, while briefing me on the operational situation in the "East" zone, emphasized that conducting combat operations in this area will be difficult.

"There are several reasons," the general emphasized. "In the first place, the area is almost inaccessible. It is not without reason that the Torgar is called the "Black Mountains." Secondly, a step away is the border with Pakistan, from where the bandit Asef receives reinforcements and weapons. The dushmans went through special training under the direction of American instruction. Asef's people know what it is like to be under fire, and they are distinguished by their cruelty and deception. I should point out also that they handle weapons perfectly. Including missiles. Without the assistance of Soviet helicopter pilots, it would be difficult to handle the dushmans with blunderbusses. And so, they asked us for support. In the mountains, being without helicopters is like being without hands...."

I recalled the words of the general just as I stepped through the entrance to the air traffic control tower. The silence was tense. Lieutenant Colonel Tselovalnik was waiting for news about his "little bees." It was explained to me: Major Vladimir Gaur's group was approaching an enemy concentration area. He was ordered: "Deliver Afghan soldiers to the combat location and support them with fire." A minute earlier, Gaur had reported that the Samusi kishlak [village] was under him. Now you could touch the Torgar gorge with your hand.

"The dukhs are armed with missile complexes," Vitaliy Petrovich thought out loud. "Besides, they have antiaircraft installations. And the landing spot is awful. Mountains. But there is no other way.... He will have to land on a dime."

Gaur's voice resounded in the air:

"Commander, I am starting my assault landing...."

Tselovalnik wiped beads of sweat from his forehead with the back of his hand:

"980! Don't get excited! Pavlik will provide cover. Do you see him" I am going over to receive...."

The most difficult part was coming. Not to interfere, I sat on the edge of a chair in the corner of the room. The loudspeaker was silent. Five more minutes passed....

"980! 980! Why are you quiet? How did the landing go?," Tselovalnik urgently demanded. Gaur kept silent. And then just as the face of the commander sank, I understood: A ChP [extraordinary incident] had occurred. And Tselovalnik shouted into the air:

"484! Report the situation! Why is Gaur silent? Do you hear, Pavlik?"

The loudspeaker crackled, and then I heard Captain Semenov:

"This is 484! Gaur's been hit by a missile. I see him falling. Heavy fire. But I will try to rescue the crew...."

"Get going, Pavlik! And be very careful!"

"I hear you! I will try...."

And again communications were broken. What events transpired in the Black Mountains did not become known until evening. And, of course, the airmen thought about Gaur's crew all day. Chances for rescue were slight: the helicopter fell right into the arms of the dushmans. True, there was still hope that Captain Semenov.... But how can a helicopter land under a hurricane of fire? And will he manage it? And perhaps he also fell into a trap.... The hour of return for the "little bees" had passed. Tselovalnik was gloomy, like a cloud. I understood what troubled him, but another opportunity to talk it over might not present itself. Gathering courage, I sat down next to the commander.

"A couple of words about Gaur's crew...."

"It is a pity if the boys do not return," Tselovalnik heaved a deep sigh. "What is there to say about Gaur? He fights skillfully, and he has initiative and is decisive. By the way, Volodya is a fighter pilot. He somehow got here in a reorganization.... They wanted to write him off for health reasons, but he stood his ground: he mastered helicopters and asked to be sent to Afghanistan. And the crew works in harmony! He was always concerned about them. It is necessary.... Let's talk about something else!"

He stopped talking.

"What kinds of tasks do we accomplish? But don't you see?! We provide assault landings, support ground subunit attacks, conduct reconnaissance and fire adjustment and transport the wounded.... Enough?"

At that instant there was a roar of engines. The "little bees" of Lieutenant Colonel Tselovalnik were returning to the base. Like tired birds, they slowly came to a landing.

"Excuse me!" the commander jumped to his jeep: he could hardly wait to see his men. I did not bother him anymore that evening. We were relieved: Captain Semenov was able, all the same, to land his helicopter and fly Gaur's crew out under fire. Then I saw his helicopter: the entire helicopter was riddled by shrapnel and bullets.... And in the evening I was invited to an after-mission critique. The commander analysed the work of the "little bees."

"Gaur's crew acted correctly. And Captain Semenov worked efficiently. Everyone demonstrated resourcefulness and presence of mind. But what is most important is that comrades were rescued. I express my gratitude to the crews!"

Then Vitaliy Petrovich assigned the mission for the next day. When the critique was over, I headed for Semenov. Short and thin, he reminded me of a tenth-grade student. And I also recall his blue eyes and wheat-colored moustache.

"I would like to know the details...."

He plaintively asked:

"Perhaps tomorrow? My head has started to ache...."

And I saw that the hands of the captain were shaking. He had not succeeded in calming down. When we came out on the street, an impenetrable fog hung over the ground. Only in the east were there flashes of summer lightening: the battle still thundered in the Black Mountains region. At midnight, everything quieted down. But I had just dozed off when machineguns hit close by. In the morning, Captain Semenov reported: saboteurs tried to penetrate the airfield area....

We walked toward the pilot living quarters--a long and narrow module. I saw four army cots in a spacious room where Captain Semenov lives. There were family photographs over each and side by side, the funny little faces of kids holding fuzzy teddy bears and long-eared rabbits in their arms. I recall a child's drawing: a red-starred helicopter firing on a dushman position.... The air conditioner hummed monotonously, and a television set and a refrigerator stood in the corner. And there were books everywhere.

Now I was also able to have a better look at Captain Semenov. Incredibly shy, he spread his arms as if helpless.

"I do not even know where to begin. You were at the KDP, I guess? Perhaps there is nothing more to add...."

It was difficult to get the captain to talk, but gradually a picture of yesterday's long and difficult day began to unfold before my eyes....

Early in the morning, Gaur's group with an Afghan assault force on board headed for Torgar. The bandits met the helicopters with hurricane fire. Nonetheless, the commander brought the group to the objective. He decided that he would land first. He throttled back. The helicopter began to descend. Suddenly fire flared up from a misty break. "Missile," Gaur was able to shout. At that very instant the helicopter was hurled upward, and then, being out of control, it dropped like a stone to the ground. Engulfed in flames, the

vehicle fell to within a dozen steps from the dushman position. Every second was precious! The fuel tanks were about to blow up.... The wounded Gaur helped flight technician Romanchuk, who was burned by fire, and navigator Balashov get out of the helicopter. In a moment, an explosion thundered over the gorge. When the smoke disappeared, the airmen saw that they were surrounded by dushmans. No! They did not intend to be captured: they got ready to fight....

Suddenly a machinegun fired from somewhere above. Captain Semenov's helicopter landed right on the patch where the crew was returning fire. Pavlik told me about this in this way:

"I ordered Sasha Besmertnyy to pin the dukhs down with fire, and I planned to land on the patch. It was very risky: reinforcements had reached the dushmans. But as soon as I saw that Demin and Romanchuk were supporting Gaur, I heaved a sigh of relief. Now we had to take off.... But how? The cargo compartment was overcrowded with Afghan soldiers. The helicopter load was doubled.... And still, we took off! Yuriy Vladykin's crew covered us from the air. If it had not been for him, Mohamed Asef's bandits would have covered us with missiles."

It was unexpectedly revealed that Semenov had been in similar situations before. This was his second time in the DRA. Taking part in the battles for the Pansher gorge, he had escorted cargoes through Salang. He had been decorated with the Order of the Red Star for his combat performance. After Afghanistan, he was sent to the Far Eastern Military District. Here he was appointed a flight commander.

"Everything was fine," Pavel smiled embarrassingly. I was greeted like a hero, and they gave me an apartment. My wife, Tanyushka, was in seventh heaven. But I was suffering. Believe me: I dreamt of the faces of my friends all the time. I could not hold back and wrote a report: I ask to be sent to the DRA again. The wife, of course, was in tears. What should I do? Forgive me, I say, and try to understand: for the time being, my place is there. I think you know the rest."

There is no denying that to serve in Afghanistan is not simple. In the summer there is sweltering heat and in the winter, very cold winds. It is difficult for everyone, but the helicopter pilots, if you will, catch more than anyone else. They fly in any weather over mountain tops and dismal gorges. And every flight is associated with risk. It is known that even on peaceful days no one is immune to accidents in the sky, but here one has to work under fire. To comprehend all of this, you have to see the "little bees" at work....

I had the chance to fly twice over the battlefield with Lieutenant Colonel Tselovalnik. I confess: it is not pleasant to know that you are in the gun-sight of a dushman. Vitaliy Petrovich was unruffled. Even now I get hot recalling how he put the helicopter into a "zoom" and after a hard turn threw it into an almost vertical dive in order to launch missiles against an enemy position. And if the dukhs had hit the helicopter?

Before returning to Kabul, Tselovalnik brought me to a small museum, right here on the airfield. It was hard for me to hold back a smile: I saw photographs of those with whom I had been able to make friends.

They are called heroes in the newspapers, but I know that mostly they are ordinary and very reliable lads.

"...So the time has come to say goodbye." The commander quietly embraced me and stepped toward the jeep. The helicopter on the runway had been waiting for him a long time. The lieutenant colonel flew off somewhere to the south, where Afghan subunits were being covered by the tireless "little bees."

13052/7051
CSO: 1801/191

AFGHANISTAN

DRA EXPERIENCES PROMPT PROPOSALS ON NIGHTTIME TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by Major S. Sharipov, instructor at the military academy imeni M. V. Frunze, International Class Master of Sports: "In Night Combat"]

[Text] Night falls quickly in the mountains. The sun was just behind the mountaintops and the unit's tent camp was wrapped in a deep, inky haze. Just then, a ragged old Afghan with the marks of a beating on his face appeared in the camp. Anxiously, he told the unit commander how the Dushmans tore into their kishlak [a village in Central Asia] and how their leader had shot his youngest son at point-blank range when he refused to join the band. Abdurakhman Razzak, as the old man was called, was himself pistol whipped on the face with a Mauser and then was threatened that he would be dealt with in the morning. At dawn a bloody fate also awaited other "negligent Muslims" who were thrown into a zindan--a deep pit.

Soviet soldiers are easy to wake up especially when it concerns helping people upon whom misfortune has fallen. It only took a few minutes for them to assemble and collect their gear, and the small group of soldiers led by Sr Lt V. Marchuk left the camp. They moved on foot along a narrow, steep, winding trail leading into the mountains. It was pitch dark. They had to move fast and in some places they had to run single file. They had to move along the side in order to avoid falling over the precipice. They arrived within the planned time at their goal--the abandoned home of a local rich man who had fled from the peoples wrath to Pakistan. There behind the walls and tightly closed iron gates, the Dushmans were settled in.

Climbing the high wall on a rope with a steel grappling hook only took a few seconds for the agile, well-trained soldiers in the group who would secure the objective. Two of them noiselessly moved along the wall to the corner turret in which there might be guards, and several men stayed behind to back up their comrades. The main task--to take out the guard struggling with sleep next to the machine gun near the camp fire that was slowing going out--was taken on by the commander himself who was a recognized master of hand-to-hand combat. After the knife attack the soft jump from the 5-meter wall which had been worked on until it had become automatic was faultless. But in actual combat one must be ready for any surprise: an instant too soon the bandit, having smelled something wrong, managed to cry out. There and then the Dushmans

began running out of the house. One of them, firing point-blank, wounded one of the soldiers. Another of our soldiers the name of whom, to my great chagrin, I have forgotten ran to the aid of that comrade. Short and puny in appearance he came face-to-face with two huge bandits. In this situation he could only depend on himself and his skill and agility. Surely the unremarkable appearance of our soldier lulled the bandits and they dropped their guard for a moment. It was just these fractions of a second that decided the outcome of the fight. A fast and precise vertical butt stroke to the chin of one of the attackers and a lightning fast head butt to the stomach of the other and it was all over. As explained at the time, all three kinds of single combat were learned by the soldier, and two of them led him to victory in this unequal fight.

The battle in the courtyard and in the house itself developed with kaleidoscopic speed. Our warriors had to use all their fighting skills and many of those instincts which had been developed in hours of physical training.

The Dushmans were beaten. The casualties on our side were one wounded. The strong handshakes and warm words of thanks from the Afghan peasants were the highest reward for our soldiers. "I did have three sons." said Abdurakhman Razzak to the Soviet soldiers. "Now you are all my sons..."

Later back at camp, having rested from the fierce fight, Sr Lt V. Marchuk and his subordinates analyzed their actions from their departure from camp to the last shot. What had helped them to come out on top against twice their number of bandits? And most surprising: not one of the grappling irons which had been thrown in pitch darkness fell down from the top edge of the wall; to a man they had at a single stroke climbed the 5 meter height without giving away their presence by heavy breathing or rattling their equipment; neither guard in the corner towers was able to cry out having been startled by the attack group soldier in front of them, and the jump and strike of the commander himself was as if taken from a movie...

Sr Lt Marchuk having measured the distance on the map from the camp to the kishlak and estimating the time noted:

--"You know, comrades, we covered the little more than 6 km at night over difficult terrain with full gear in about the same time as the day standard?"

Here you have it: to operate at night as if in daylight. Forced marches, overcoming obstacles, hand-to-hand combat, precise fire on flashes of light and silhouettes...I could present many examples when units were forced to conduct operation under night conditions and brilliantly accomplished their mission. I could tell you how on one of the dark Afghan nights a company in our unit commanded by Gds Capt A. Berezhkov in an audacious 10-km forced march during which it was necessary to ford a wild mountain stream using a rope reached the kishlak Karayatim which had been seized by Dushmans and using the element of surprise completely destroyed a large band.

But that is enough examples. For me, at that time the regimental physical training officer, for my colleagues from neighboring units and for the

majority of commanders the successful accomplishment of units in extreme--in complexity of the mission and situation in which these missions are accomplished--conditions there were no surprises. Everything was done so that personnel would be trained according to wise realities dictated by combat and the completion of commands with identical purposefulness not only during the day but also on night forced marches, in overcoming the most various natural obstacles to the point of automation working out movements in hand-to-hand combat when the presence of an "enemy" close by can be guessed only by the sound of steps, muzzle blasts and by something as simple as interrupted breathing.

Possibly, having read these lines, another commander will raise the question: where, in what document, in what regulation is night training for physical training given? It is true. It's all there, it's all given--night firing, night movement, tactical training at night...Not only night forced marches for time with full pack and over unfamiliar broken terrain but also night training in hand-to-hand fighting, overcoming obstacles and other parts of physical training.

It is not necessary to emphasize that all of the officers with whom I have served or simply met in Afghanistan use night exercises as part of physical training. But the realities of combat itself, life itself, has forced those who see the need as well as those who must overcome a negative attitude toward this unusual and very unnecessary type of combat training as viewed not only by soldiers but even certain unit commanders, to conduct night training. They who understand well that the most brilliant tactical plan will remain unaccomplished if the main executor -- the soldier -- is not correspondingly well prepared.

The experience of units in the Limited Contingent of Soviet Forces in Afghanistan fully testifies to this. Before sharing my ideas with the readers of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, I talked with many officers and commanders who had served in the DRA and are now studying at the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze. Together they discussed and analyzed night raids which were conducted while they were there by subunits commanded by Sr Lt V. Marchuk and Gds Capt A. Berezhkov. Each of my interviewees had their own examples which were no less clear and constructive because everything did not always go as planned. And if unforeseen events occurred, the commanders thought that one reason was that the personnel were insufficiently trained for individual and collective combat especially at night.

In short, the suggestions which I would like to propose are the fruit, to a certain degree, of collective analysis. And they lead to further suggestions. It seems necessary to introduce night physical training into combat training in separate parts like rapid movement, overcoming obstacles, and hand-to-hand combat. Each soldier and sergeant must become familiar with it, naturally, after good preparation under daylight conditions. In reality, under conditions of limited visibility, and especially in complete darkness, a great many things seem different and are perceived in a completely different way than during the day. Physical fatigue and nervous tension increase and the instinct for self-preservation becomes sharper. Poor visibility distorts the

optical sensations from objects and the terrain as a whole and that is an additional psychological load on the shoulders of the soldier.

Returning to the example presented above, I have noted that the success of the soldiers led by Sr Lt V. Marchuk was first of all, a result of night training in forced marches over unfamiliar terrain and of course the development of single combat using bayonet, rifle butt and knife beginning in an open area and then in limited spaces with very limited visibility. Training was varied by changing the tempo and organizing fights with partners of different heights and weights as well as one against two and against three opponents.

It seems to me that the accumulated experience requires very serious study and generalization. Everything should be done so that night physical training as an element of combat training will become as habitual and psychologically valid as, let's say, night firing in the eyes of commanders. And here, it seems, much could be done in military academies where command cadres are prepared. It is necessary from the first day to establish the vital necessity for physical training at night. Then officers who were prepared to organize and conduct such complex but very necessary work would come to the troops.

The memories of the audacious fight of the Soviet soldiers with the Dushman band which was threatening the inhabitants of a faraway mountain kishlak with violence have directed me to such reflections.

12747
CSO: 1801/168

AFGHANISTAN

MILITARY SERVICE AT SALANG PASS DESCRIBED

Moscow ZA RULEM in Russian No 2, Feb 86 p 10-11

[Article by Valeriy Sukhodolskiy: "The Salang Pass"; first paragraph is ZA RULEM introduction]

[Text] DOSAAF Press is preparing to publish a book by the military journalist Valeriy Sukhodolskiy called "The Password is Revolution!" about Soviet soldiers accomplishing their internationalist duty in Afghanistan. We are offering the reader with some condensation, several pages from the book dedicated to Soviet and Afghan road workers and drivers serving in the Salang Pass.

Ah, the Salang! When I close my eyes I again see before me rows of Afghan vehicles--first, silvery "tank cars," then multicolored, like a New Year's tree, "burubukhayki" and then the KamAZ trucks carrying snow white bags of carbamide. In the dark I also can make out my companion the officer Vasiliy Menshikov and the vehicles which had stopped for the night in a covered gallery and blocked the entrance ramp to the road. Menshikov knocked on the tops and asked them to move aside. The figures of the drivers flashed by in the eerie eastern clothing, the motors growled and our path was cleared and our armored personnel carrier slowly moves forward. Here is the "southern" dispatch point. Further on, we race through the tunnel which was completely empty at night deeper and deeper into the mountain. The green light--the highest point--flashed and the road went down. The electric lights merged before our eyes into one line. The tunnel comes to an end and we stop at the "northern" dispatch point.

You can't avoid the memorial oblisk at the Salang--a red star with wings of sheet metal--the emblem of motor transport drivers in honor of Soviet and Afghan drivers. And I see the black slope at the approach to the tunnel and hear again my companion: For some reason, more often than not, the bandits attack our columns from the black slopes. Four days before not far from the water mill, his armored personnel carrier was fired upon. Only the gunner was a poor shot. And here is a dent in the asphalt. It was from a heavy machine gun. To the right, along the river, is the mountain river also known as the Salang; at the side are the frames of vehicles--piles of burned out rusting metal. These are the effects of a recent attack by bandits on a peaceful Afghan column. They were carrying rice, wheat and fuel. They did not give it

up but started fighting and fought until help could arrive in the form of troops from the Afghan army and the Tsarandoy [Ministry of the Interior]. This happened before my visit and if it had not been for my companion's story and seeing the metal, one would not think anything bad had happened, such was the extraordinary beauty of the road: the slope thrust up before us, the fast water in the river, the innumerable bridges crossing it and the white summits in the blue sky.

Such a time is coming! The Afghan people will drive out the last bandit and live a quiet, peaceful life. The abandoned fields will bloom again. They will build good roads. Tourists will come to the country. And what will they see--a country of exceeding beauty! And the road in the Salang is one of the brightest pearls in the beautiful Afghan necklace...

Along with me in the armored personnel carrier was Senior Lieutenant Abdul Vakil. A political worker who had finished the Tsarandoy Academy. In Jelalabad counterrevolutionaries burned his parents' home and killed his brother and three children. In the Salang he has already been with his company 7 years and will be there until the revolution comes to a victorious end. This is what he told me while he himself looked intently somewhere past the bridge appearing in front of him.

So what is all this about the Salang? In a country with no railroads, vehicles and camels carry the people everything from needles to modern machines tools and the capital is connected with our country by a single automobile highway from Kabul to Termez in such a country the significance of this road is not simply great, for the republic it is the road of life. On the road is the Hindu Kush Trace and at the highest point they decided to put the road through the mountain: they dug, chiseled through and blasted through it and there appeared this tunnel which saves the country millions of Afghans. It was built by the Soviet Union. The construction process was a grandiose, true structure of friendship. They say there are no bigger tunnels in the world.

"You have to meet with Romanov," I was advised in Kabul. "He and the Afghan Colonel Jamaluddin were two men who were responsible for the Salang working like a clock now. Like a well-oiled clock."

I did not have to look for Romanov. He himself jumped out of the little car at the "northern" point, black in a short black sheepskin coat stretched by the shoulder boards and a fur hat; he had a long nose and a black mustache. We introduced ourselves and after an instant he was already flying away on his "gaz" to the "southern" end. And only in the evening did we get to talk. The thing is that the Afghan columns moved along the road only during the day. At night they put up in villages in order to avoid being attacked by the Dushmans. Therefore, in the evening the tunnel becomes quiet and it was quiet in our little van which had a light dusting of snow lying on top of it. He had already gone on for several hours and at midnight we went out to the street--Romonov waited for a Soviet tank column which was returning from exercises and did not know the pass. Everything had turned white. The telephone rang: Senior Lieutenant Yuriy Kostachev reported from the "southern" end that the tanks were in the tunnel. And after a few minutes

even our van rattled and shook in the tunnel and soon the tanks were passing by, leaving grooved tracks in the fresh snow.

"Now there won't be anything else until morning," said Romanov, and again we went inside.

The mission of the unit was to provide for the uninterrupted movements of vehicle columns in the pass, eliminate the obstructions from avalanches and mudflows and to prevent sabotage. Romanov says with pride that in winter they take care of everything, primarily living conditions. There are driers and hot water washers at each point, previously there were none, as well as mess halls and kitchens and baths! Then, warm things: felt boots, padded jackets, trousers, short sheepskin coats and mittens. They prepare the equipment. They carry everything necessary including 1500 cubic meters of sand. Yes, even sand is needed; surface icing is pretty common here.

"I have some good people!"

Romanov began to describe each in detail. And now, while leafing through my notebook, it is as if I had returned to that night in the Salang, I hear Romanov's voice talking with his cold:

The first sergeant is Senior Warrant Officer Vladimir Tarasov. He planted trees around and set out flowers in these rocks. And what a bath he has and the vegetable storehouse! He has brought up dirt for the seedbeds and is waiting for spring. He dreams all the time of hothouses. He is from the Volga. He got married while on leave. Lieutenant Vasily Kovalev is responsible for my communications. He came directly from the academy to the Salang. I think, without a doubt, that communications is very difficult. And he has shown himself excellent: At night, in blizzards, and in freezing weather--two men take care of and restore communications. Such a lieutenant is rare. We have decided to admit him to the party. I wrote the recommendation myself...

On flipping through my notebook. The pages tell me that Romanov is nervous and he shouts in a rage. Only the lieutenants and warrant officers dote on him. And he them as he described them!

Romanov motioned to the officer who was resting on the top bunk (there were bunkbeds in the van):

"Write about him. Senior Lieutenant Matyukin, Gerasim Gerasimovich. There was a substantial snowdrift here; it snowed for 3 days. Vehicles were stopped. The blizzard was so thick you could not see your hand in front of your face. He led our soldiers on foot to save Afghan drivers. They pulled them out and gave them something to drink and to eat; otherwise they would have been frozen!

The Salang. It has always been, from the very beginning of its construction, a symbol of our friendship. And Romanov has many friends here: Col Jamaluddin, Capt Ako Mukhammal, Senior Lt Abdul Vakil. The ventilation man

Azis is a hardworking and reliable man. He sometimes wears a brand-new Soviet officer's field tunic. Smiling, he told me: "Romanov gave Azis this."

When I left, the Salang was under alert. We received information that the bandits had prepared to sabotage the tunnel. In one column approaching the pass their vehicles were loaded with explosives and mines. Sappers with dogs were called in. Monitoring was increased. The vehicles did not reach the pass...

Ah, the Salang, my Salang... Floods tear down your bridges and avalanches come down from your mountains. Blizzards cover your galleries with snow. Bandit bullets make holes in the vehicle cabins.

But the Salang lives! And works like a clock!

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AFGHANISTAN

DRA VETERANS ESTABLISH CLUB IN LENINGRAD

PM081426 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 30 April 1986 First Edition carries on page 2a 1,000-word article by A. Chizhenok entitled "Soldiers From The 'Internationalist' Club. We are Remembered, Therefore We Are Needed..." The article begins: "An 'Internationalist' Patriotic Club will function from now on in Leningrad's Dzerzhinskiy Rayon. This decision was made by servicemen of the reserve who have performed their international duty as members of the limited contingent of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. They gathered recently for an evening's meeting in the "Sonety' youth cafe at the Komsomol Raykom's invitation." Chizhenok writes at length about the meeting, quoting statements made by veterans and their reminiscences, and concludes: "Yes, now they still live according to laws of brotherhood in arms."

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