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28 July 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): A Matter
of Great Importance

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article outlines and explains several measures being carried out to implement the Universal Military Service Law and to improve the system of manning the Soviet Armed Forces. It lists basic categories in which youth should receive training prior to call-up and suggests ways in which this training will be carried out. It describes the procedure for the registration and evaluation of conscripts in a two-year period prior to call-up, as well as the call-up itself and assignment of conscripts to the troops. Finally, the article examines problems of training noncommissioned officers, junior specialists, officers and students of civilian institutions of higher education. This article appeared in Issue No. 2 (84) for 1968.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned the

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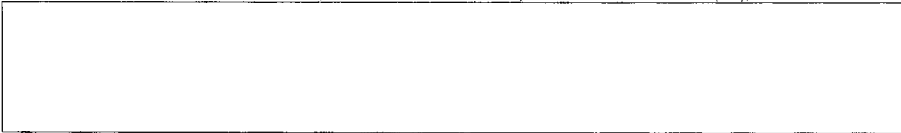
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Intelligence Information Special Report

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SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): A Matter of Great Importance

SOURCE

Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 2 (84) for 1968 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". The author of this article is General of the Army S. Shtemenko. This article outlines and explains several measures being carried out to implement the Universal Military Service Law and to improve the system of manning the Soviet Armed Forces. It lists basic categories in which youth should receive training prior to call-up and suggests ways in which this training will be carried out. It describes the procedure for the registration and evaluation of conscripts in a two-year period prior to call-up, as well as the call-up itself and assignment of conscripts to the troops. Finally, the article examines problems of training noncommissioned officers, junior specialists, officers and students of civilian institutions of higher education. End of Summary

Comment:

General of the Army Sergey Matveyevich Shtemenko was a First Deputy Chief of the USSR General Staff and Chief of Staff of the Combined Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact. He died 23 April 1976. The SECRET version of Military Thought was published three times annually and was distributed down to the level of division commander. It reportedly ceased publication at the end of 1970.



A Matter of Great Importance
by
General of the Army S. SHTEMENKO

The Universal Military Service Law marks a new stage in the building of the Soviet military establishment. Important questions on the manning of the armed forces in peacetime and wartime are defined by it. The provisions of the law are being widely explained to the entire population, to our youth, and to servicemen of the army and navy. In this regard, numerous suggestions have been advanced, the authors of which, being guided by good intentions, recommend how to better accomplish tasks which arise when putting the law into practice. However, being ill-informed to a significant degree on the measures being taken by the Ministry of Defense, some of those coming forward are committing errors or making proposals concerning questions which are already resolved.

As a result of this, the necessity has arisen, in our view, for further explaining several of the provisions of the law and measures which are being conducted for their implementation.

First of all, something should be mentioned with regard to the overall requirements for the manning of the armed forces since some comrades mistakenly suppose that in accomplishing this task the special features of modern warfare have not been fully taken into account. In actuality, the objective requirements of warfare constitute one of the most important scientific bases for accomplishing the tasks of manning the troops. Under present-day conditions, the manning of the Soviet Army and Navy can be broken into three basic stages. The first is the training of youth for service in the armed forces, the second is the registration at the induction districts and the evaluation of the conscripts, and the third is the call-up into active military service, the dispatch of conscripts to the troops, and their allocation as replacements among large units, units, subunits, crews, and squads.

We will examine each of these stages in more detail.

TRAINING OF YOUTH FOR SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Training of youth for service in the army and navy is begun long before the call-up. It is carried out in sequence and it provides for the following: medical treatment and health improvement measures; raising the general educational level for those persons who do not have an eight-year education; physical training; basic military training; training of specialists for the armed forces and, finally, the military-patriotic education of youth which must be conducted in the family, in the school, in factories, and on the collective farms -- making up what might be called the spiritual foundation for the work cited above. It is self-evident that all of these types of training are not separated from each other by periods of time and several of them are conducted simultaneously. At the same time, time periods are designated for the conduct of the basic military training of youth and for the training of specialists.

In our day, when servicemen must work in hermetically sealed compartments, vans, and vehicles, whether it be a submarine, aircraft, tank, or infantry combat vehicle, the army needs especially healthy people. Insufficient physical training, an illness, or physical defect which is not diagnosed in time inevitably leads to unwarranted losses of young soldiers, which undoubtedly has a negative effect on the combat readiness of units and large units.

In order to avoid inducting young people into the armed forces who are unfit from the health standpoint and at the same time give each citizen the opportunity to fulfil his duty to the homeland, a procedure has been established whereby medical treatment, health improvement and prophylactic measures are conducted in advance beginning at the age of 15 and lasting for a two-year period. These measures consist of sending those in need of it to rest centers, to health-improvement camps, and to hospitals for medical treatment. Medical examinations of conscripts are carried out by doctors with various specialties twice -- during registration and during call-up of youth.

A medical examination is conducted in accordance with special guides and is also based on additional requirements on

the state of health of those being inducted into active military service (Ministry of Defense Order No. 224 of 1966) which strictly regulate the state of health of those being inducted for the purpose of sending them to one branch arm or branch of the armed forces or another.

Prior to the dispatch of young replacements to the army from oblast assembly points, all conscripts once again undergo an extensive medical examination with all doctor-specialists participating.

Thus, the manning of the armed forces with young replacements is done above all with strict consideration for the state of health of the conscripts.

In manning the troops, the requirements for the general educational level of knowledge and skills of youth are being significantly increased. Modern weapons and equipment do not produce the desired effect if they are to be operated by persons with insufficient general education and technical training. In order to study and know the complex devices and other equipment well and control them skilfully, one must have a certain minimum general knowledge of physics, mathematics and other subjects studied in school. In this regard, persons who are subject to call-up but who do not have an eight-year education are identified and registered by the public education organs and military commissariats. It is made the conscripts' duty to raise their general educational preparation prior to call-up. For this purpose, young people are registered at schools where special groups are formed and classes conducted. Admittedly, in recent years the number of such persons is growing ever smaller and smaller but, nevertheless, during the registration of those born in 1948 (for the 1967 call-up), there were, in sum, more than 160,000. In the near future, this type of training of the youth will of course no longer be necessary.

The manning of troops takes place with a mandatory individual recording of the knowledge and skills of the conscripts. Thus, persons who have a secondary education, and if they possess other necessary qualities (a strong will, exacting attitude), are sent to man training divisions and schools and training detachments for the training of sergeants and petty officers of all branch arms and branches of the armed forces, and

also to man line subunits of the most important branch arms and branches of the armed forces such as those of the rocket troops, surface-to-air missile units, and others where they are trained in military specialties through practical work.

For the manning of the troops it is very important to allocate the conscripts among the branch arms and branches of the armed forces with consideration for their industrial specialty and work skills. The principle of allocation by industrial specialty means that the conscripts working in factories, enterprises, and facilities which produce missile and aviation hardware, armor, and radar equipment are sent to missile, aviation, tank, and radio and radiotechnical units respectively. Conscripts who work on ships of the merchant marine and river fleets, in shipbuilding and ship repair yards, residents of maritime areas and fishermen, and also those who have graduated from merchant marine schools and schools specializing in water transport are sent to the Navy, if they are physically fit for service in the Navy. Furthermore, many young people who worked prior to call-up into the army in factories, mines, in construction, or in collective or State farms receive appropriate professional-technical training. At the present time, through professional-technical educational institutions alone, specialists are being trained in more than 1,100 civilian specialties. All those who receive this training usually are sent to troops, of their own or related specialty.

Service in the army and in the navy demands people who are not only healthy but those who are hardy and hardened, that is, people who are thoroughly physically trained. All of these qualities are developed in the army, where much attention is given to physical training. However, it would be much simpler and faster to get a physically-fit soldier or seaman if the conscripts were to take part in sports prior to arrival in the army and even better if they were to have a sports rating and have passed the physical training tests for the "Ready for Defense of the Homeland" (GZR) badge. Therefore, it is necessary to intensify physical training of young people in schools and in enterprises, and under the monitoring of the military commissariats conduct physical training tests for the sports rating and the GZR badge. As experience shows, the military commissariats' monitoring of the quality of physical training is necessary, since recently cases have become, unfortunately, not

infrequent when young persons entering the army were not in condition to confirm sports ratings received earlier.

The basic military training of youth is a new phenomenon in the importance of its tasks and on so large a scale. The Law of Universal Military Service and the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the USSR enacted on 29 April 1968, "On the Time and Procedure for the Introduction of Basic Military Training of Youth", specified all the necessary basic conditions for this training. It is being introduced in general educational schools, in special secondary educational institutions, and in educational institutions of the professional-technical education system, and also at training centers which are being set up in enterprises (including State farms), in facilities, and in collective farms, and is applied to all young men without exception; in general educational schools, special secondary educational institutions, and in professional-technical schools it is applied to young girls as well.

One-hundred-forty training hours are given over to basic military training, including the 35 hours previously allotted for the study of the civil defense course. In such a relatively short training period, students in the ninth and tenth grades of school, students of the senior courses of technicums, and those students in the first through third years of study at professional-technical schools must complete the full course of individual training for a soldier, acquire minimal knowledge and skills in one of the military technical specialties, and master the fundamentals of civil defense.

Therefore, the program of basic military training provides for the study of the nature, peculiarities, and importance of military service as an honorable duty of a citizen of the USSR, and of the requirements of the military oath and military regulations. Included in the training are study of the mechanism of the assault rifle or carbine, machinegun, and hand-held antitank grenade launcher, instruction in firing small-caliber rifles, and, where possible, live firing with assault rifles. The activities of a soldier are worked out in actual practice.

As regards the knowledge and skills in one of the military technical specialties, it must be kept in mind here that in schools, professional-technical schools and technicums there are

not sufficient materiel resources nor teaching staff and, most important, not enough time to professionally master such a specialty. Specifically, the question concerns the 40 hours of study in the following specialties: driver or motorcyclist, radiotelephone operator, radar operator, computer operator-programmer, helmsman-signalman, and telephone lineman. In this amount of time it is only possible to become acquainted with the general mechanics of a machine, its components, and basic methods of operation. Naturally, in that amount of time it is not possible to acquire lasting practical skills. A further deepening of knowledge and improvement of skills acquired are carried out on a voluntary basis as an elective. Students who have completed the required program and the elective course in, for instance, the driver specialty can, having passed appropriate examinations, receive amateur driver's licenses.

Young girls will study the fundamentals of military matters and civil defense together with young men but will go through a training program as medical aides separately from them.

On the whole, the basic military training must provide such knowledge and skills that youth being called up into the armed forces will be able to master modern weapons and combat equipment in a short time. This task is not an easy one; it requires well-organized and purposeful work on the part of both the trainers and the trainees.

The opinion has been expressed in our classified publications that in the course of basic military training of youth in secondary schools, special attention must be paid to military patriotic work and military physical training.*

It goes without saying that military patriotic education is the most important task of the school. As is known, however, education is a long-term process and it cannot be limited only to the program of basic military training. Education must be carried out by all teachers everywhere and at all times. Basic military training, in order to fulfil the tasks with which it is charged, must be supported by the entire body of military patriotic measures being carried out, by a knowledge of the fundamentals of science, and by everything that school provides youth. It is noted in the aforementioned Decree of the Council

* Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought", No. 1 (83), 1968, p. 14

of Ministers that, for the purposes of consolidating the knowledge and skills which have been acquired by young people in military training, the implementation of tactical drills, military-style marches, and games in military/sports and health-improvement camps should be widely put into practice with youth.

The government of the USSR has determined a timetable for the introduction of basic military training. A period of five years from 1968 to 1972 is allotted for this.

This long period is due to the massive scale of the work, the large material and financial expenditures, and the necessity of preliminary implementation of a series of organizational measures to provide for the training of cadres of military instructors, the outfitting of training centers, and an ordered process of the establishment and development of training courses. Suffice it to say that basic military training must be introduced in 45,000 schools and educational institutions and at 20,000 training centers. A whole army of military instructors and instructors are needed for them. The overall expenses for basic military training without calculating for one-time expenditures (the acquisition of small-caliber rifles, outfitting of military study rooms, orientation meetings with military instructors) when instruction is fully established will amount to 50.2 million rubles per year.

The Decree provides for the allocation of appropriations for the construction of target ranges in cities and rural areas which ensure safe instruction in firing, for the outfitting of military study rooms, and storerooms for training weapons and small-caliber rifles. School construction will be undertaken with due consideration for the requirements of basic military training.

Much attention is given in the Decree to military instructors who will conduct the basic military training in the schools, to their rights and duties. They will be assigned, as a rule, from the ranks of reserve officers who have a higher or secondary military education. Much attention was also given to chiefs and instructors of basic military training at training centers of enterprises, to payment for their work, and to the organization of instruction at these centers.

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Appropriate ministries and departments are obliged to set up guidance and monitoring organs from the central apparatus down to oblast organizations inclusively.

The Provision on basic military training and programs of instruction are worked out and distributed to the training areas. These define the content of the training and the responsibilities of the Ministry of Defense, Central Committee of DOSAAF, Chief of Civil Defense of the USSR, directors of enterprises, facilities, schools, and other organizations, the Komsomol and sports societies. The organization and procedure for the implementation of basic military training of students of general educational schools, secondary special educational institutions, and educational institutions of the professional-technical education system are also established. In general educational schools, students of the ninth and tenth classes (and eleventh where they have them) will study two hours per week; in secondary special educational institutions -- in the upper classes one to three hours; and in professional-technical schools (during the period of theoretical study in the first through third years of education) -- two hours per week each year.

The Provision defines the procedure for selection and assignment of military instructors, matters of improving their qualifications, and also all other matters pertaining to the organization and support of military training in schools. Articles 17 and 18 deal with recording and evaluating progress in basic military training and with its place as an academic subject.

A special section of the Provision regulates matters of the organization and implementation of basic military training at training centers. It also specifies the duties of enterprise administrations, the procedure for conducting instruction and tests, and lists the equipment of the centers.

Thus, all that is necessary for the successful development of basic military training -- that most important link in the preparation of youth for service in the army -- already exists. The only thing that is needed is to persevere and, in an organized way, put the decision of the Party, the Government, and the Ministry of Defense into practice.

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The Armed Forces stand in need of massive yearly reinforcement of their ranks with highly qualified specialists. With the reduction in the terms of service, the requirement for specialists will rise sharply (for instance, 40 percent more drivers will be required).

As has already been noted, it is impossible to train skilled specialists in the course of basic military training as it is only the basis for subsequent training. For this reason the Universal Military Service Law has established special training of specialists in support of the army and navy (Articles 18, 19). This training does not encompass all young people but only those who have reached 17 years of age and who have received basic military training. A list of specialties and the amount of necessary knowledge and skills, that is, the program of specialist training, is determined by the Ministry of Defense. On the list are: drivers, mechanic-drivers of artillery prime-movers, communications personnel, parachutists, submariners, electricians, and others. Reality demands, however, that the scope of these specialties be expanded and that specialists be trained by branch arms which unquestionably will be done. The training of specialists is carried out in the training organizations of DOSAAF and in educational institutions of the professional-technical education system, but the number of specialists undergoing training is established by the Council of Ministers of the USSR upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Defense.

Presently, work is being carried out to improve the quality of training of specialists, increase their numbers, and expand the list of specialties.

THE REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION OF CONSCRIPTS

Two years prior to call-up, the so-called registration of young people in conscription districts takes place. This is done in order to register all young people and to ascertain in advance their state of health, their general educational preparation, and all of their other qualities. This is only one facet, although a very important one, of the work which is conducted yearly during January and February.

Following this, after registration is completed and right up to call-up, during a period of almost one-and-a-half to two years (depending on the time of call-up), the quality of the conscript manpower pool is improved, if one can put it this way. The ill are sent for medical treatment, the general educational level is raised, physical training is conducted with the object of raising sports skills. The Komsomol, school, enterprises, collective farms, sports organizations, and military commissariats participate in this work, and they are obliged to monitor the entire operation and report on its progress to local party and Soviet organs.

During the same period, the military commissariats carefully evaluate the future conscripts and make a preliminary selection of those who are suitable for troops with special security requirements, for the special troops, and for troops who will be stationed abroad, and select who should be assigned to which branch of the armed forces and branch arm. There is enough time to carry out all this work (almost two years); unfortunately, however, many military commissariats spend it socializing, that is, during the two-month registration and during the call-up. It goes without saying that such a practice is not correct. It leads to numerous errors in doing the assigning of conscripts to the troops and to the calling up of the undereducated and physically unfit into the army. The task is to completely utilize the time allotted for evaluation and training of conscripts.

THE CALL-UP, DISPATCHING AND ALLOCATION OF CONSCRIPTS WITHIN THE TROOPS

The final stage of manning is especially important for the combat readiness of the troops and ships. It is namely during call-up that all the preceding work is reviewed, all previously committed errors are identified and corrected. To be sure, it is possible to correct only those mistakes which relate to the allocation of conscripts by branch of the armed forces, by branch arm, and by team. As regards the state of health, general educational and physical training, nothing can be rectified at the time of call-up: only the sick may be given a deferment; the rest are sent to the troops. This is, of course, a flaw in the operation of all organizations which are in charge of the training of conscripts. Therefore, besides in the rayon and city

conscription commissions, medical and other checking is carried out at oblast, kray, and republic assembly points as well in order, above all, to prevent, where possible, sending the sick into the army and to correct mistakes which were not noted before. Besides this, commissions are set up in each military district for the selection of troops to be stationed abroad, troops with special security requirements, and special troops. This is all done in order that the next manning of the armed forces with young replacements be carried out in the best possible way.

Of great importance for combat readiness is the proper allocation of the arriving replacements among units and crews, taking into account the specialty and other qualities of each young soldier and seaman. The importance of this matter need not be explained, yet nonetheless mistakes are being made in places and after each call-up not a few complaints are received at the General Staff about not utilizing conscripts in the specialty for which they have been trained for service in the army.

Let us now examine matters of training noncommissioned officers, junior specialists, officers, and students of civilian higher educational institutions.

The reduction in the term of active military service requires further improvement in the system of training of noncommissioned officers and junior specialists -- the immediate superiors of soldiers (seamen) and their closest tutors. In the first place, the training and cohesiveness of crews and combat crews depends on them. During the same term of active service as the rest of the servicemen, not only must a noncommissioned officer be taught the skilful mastery of a military specialty, but instructional and command skills must be cultivated in him as well, and he must also be given the maximum length of time for actual command of a subunit. It is very difficult to combine these requirements. Moreover, it is not possible to train noncommissioned officers for this in eight or nine months as before, since with such training periods it would be necessary to replace 100 percent of the noncommissioned officers yearly which would sharply reduce the combat readiness of the troops. Because of this, training periods for noncommissioned officers have been set at five and one-half months. Graduation from training divisions, regiments, and schools will, consequently, take place

twice yearly and during each discharge only 33 percent of the noncommissioned officers will be replaced.

Suggestions have been advanced in the press concerning ways to train noncommissioned officers. It has been proposed, for instance, that they be trained in secondary technical educational institutions.*

At first glance, this seems an attractive idea. It would indeed be a good thing were trained noncommissioned officers-commanders of squads, crews, etc., to be received into the army and navy, but in analyzing this suggestion it is evident that there are no grounds for it whatsoever. The impossibility of training full-fledged noncommissioned officers in technicums is acknowledged by the author of the proposal himself when he writes that it would be necessary to complete training in training large units for an additional four to five months.

And really, is it possible under existing conditions in secondary technical educational institutions to train noncommissioned officers who are able to command squad teams and crews, who know the prescribed armament and equipment perfectly, who are excellent shots, who can drive tanks, and who have acquired instructional skills while studying? Secondary educational institutions are not equal to such a task since they have neither the necessary personnel and materiel, nor the time to accomplish it.

In order to train noncommissioned officers, military departments would first of all have to be set up in secondary educational institutions, and would also have to have technically equipped classrooms, target ranges, and space for equipment.

According to approximate calculations, it would take about 27,000 officers for the organization of military departments in technicums, and in addition, instructors and personnel to service the equipment, that is, noncommissioned officers and soldiers. Expenses for their maintenance alone are determined to be almost 150 million rubles per year. Apart from these expenditures, money for equipping the aforementioned special classrooms, target ranges, and other spaces are needed, which also represents a very considerable sum.

* Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought", No. 1 (83), 1968, p. 16

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It is not possible to limit the existing number of hours in these educational institutions which are being allotted to military matters. At least 800 to 900 hours are needed to train a noncommissioned officer. Allotting that much time would prolong the training in a technicum a minimum of one year, since even if military training alone is studied seven hours a day, it is still necessary to have five months to go through the entire program. This, in turn, requires additional expenditures for the payment of stipends to students. It would also delay the entry of trained specialists into the national economy.

Of course, there is no point in training noncommissioned officers in some sort of shortened program which lasts 100 to 150 hours, either, since the experience of the air defense forces shows, for example, one can train a good specialist in five to six months from conscripts with secondary education.

All of this testifies to the fact that the training of noncommissioned officers should be carried out as before, in training large units and units.

A study of the state of affairs in training large units and units has shown that the training of sergeants and petty officers must be more centralized. It is conducted considerably better in those places where there is a wealth of training materials resources with a well-organized training process.

Much can be achieved as well by improving the supervision of training of noncommissioned officers and by raising the quality of selection by military commissariats of conscripts to training units.

These considerations were taken into account, and the Minister of Defense with his Order No. 0206 of 29 August 1967, "On measures for the further improvement of the training of noncommissioned officers and junior specialists of the Ground Forces", has already established the training procedure for the bulk of noncommissioned officers by reducing the training period to five and one-half months. For the most complex specialties (rocket forces technicians, aerial gunner/radio operators, submariners) the training period still remains eight months. The training of noncommissioned officers has already been organized and is being conducted in compliance with this order through new

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programs with consideration being given to modern requirements.

It should be noted that an eight-month training period is unquestionably, a temporary phenomenon. It is undesirable both for economic reasons and from the point of view of combat readiness, as it does not permit the beginning of training in training subunits to coincide with the time of call-up and discharge. We will study this matter during the course of 1968 and investigate the possibilities of conducting the training of noncommissioned officers and specialists with complex occupational specialties in roughly six months whereby the quality of training would also be greater.

The task now is to carry out the Minister's order while decisively improving the organizational structure of training large units and units and improving the methodology of training noncommissioned officers in them while increasing the discipline and orderliness of the training process. Here is a broad field of activity for creative thought and the application of energy of generals, officers, and soldiers.

One of the important aspects of manning an army has always been, and remains today, the training of officer personnel. Its significance is generally well known as are the new ideas which have arisen in this field as a result of the revolution in military affairs.

During the period of development of the fundamentals of modern Soviet military doctrine and the rapid development of the building of the military establishment, the work in training officer personnel has fallen somewhat behind the requirements of the armed forces. As a result of this, not only has a significant shortage of officers of certain categories come into being among the troops, but also the system of training in military educational institutions has become highly complex and its balance and purposefulness have, in a number of cases, been disrupted. The initial training of officers, for instance, was conducted in all types of military educational institutions: in secondary and higher schools and in academies as well. In engineering faculties of military academies and in the majority of the higher engineering schools, young civilians who had arrived from general educational schools without any military training were trained alongside officers who already had a

secondary military education and work experience with the troops. All of them were studying according to the same programs at one and the same time, something that can hardly be deemed correct.

Command personnel with higher military education were trained in command academies and in command and command-engineer faculties with training periods of various lengths (three to five years). Thus, the manning of these faculties with officer students was done in different ways: one was manned with officers who had graduated from higher military educational institutions with a five-year term of study, others -- with officers who had graduated from military schools with a three- to four-year period of study. As a whole then, up to eight or nine years and more were spent on giving an officer a higher military education.

The extent of knowledge of officer students and cadets in educational institutions having the same or similar specialties was, however, far from being the same. In some command educational institutions, for instance, 24 percent of the overall time was budgeted for operational-tactical disciplines while in others more than 40 percent was allotted.

Now, by Minister of Defense Orders No. 019 and 020 of 31 January, a well-balanced system of training of officer cadres has been established. Under this system, the bulk of the officers will be trained in four to five years, in the course of which they should receive secondary military and higher special education, but the overall time of study in schools and academies for command, political and engineer personnel will not have to exceed seven years. Thus, the necessary measures have already been taken and will continue to be taken.

Technicians and officers with secondary military education who are designated to fill technical jobs in aviation, air defense of the country, in construction and finance organs, in rear services and special communications will be trained in secondary military schools with a three-year training period. Engineers for primary engineer jobs will be trained in engineer schools with a five-year training period. The training of command and political personnel will be handled by the higher command schools, flight schools, and political schools with a four-year training period and for missile officers and naval

officers, five years.

Senior command, staff, and engineer personnel, from deputy regiment commander and up, will train in command and engineer faculties of military academies. There will be no engineer-command faculties. Training periods in academies for officers who have graduated from secondary schools are set at four years, for those who have graduated from the higher four-year schools -- at three years, and for those who have graduated from the higher five-year school -- at two years.

Taking into account the complexity of modern weapons and equipment, secondary tank-technical, artillery, air defense, communications, military engineer, chemical, motor transport, and topographic secondary military schools are being reorganized during 1968-1970 into higher four-year command schools. Command personnel with secondary military and higher general (engineer) education will be trained in them. Graduates of these schools will be given all-union diplomas as engineer-operators by specialty which correspond to the specialty of the school. Such diplomas will now also be given to graduates of higher combined-arms command schools except for the Leningrad school where the physical training curriculum will be retained.

As far as the commander-engineer occupational specialty is concerned, it should be noted that a decision has been made by the Minister of Defense to reduce almost universally the training of such officers. This was due to the fact that trying to simultaneously train someone as a commander and an engineer led to the dissipation of training time, as a result of which neither a well-trained commander nor a highly-qualified engineer was produced. Since the 1968-1969 academic year, command-engineer faculties of academies have been in the process of being reorganized into command faculties. This ensures the training of command personnel who know to perfection matters of the combat employment of their own branch arm, who are able to assess a situation well, to make well-grounded decisions, to organize cooperation, and to carry out firm control of troops in the battle and the operation. Such a commander will have the necessary engineering knowledge without which it is impossible to correctly utilize modern weapons and equipment. However, the command-engineer schools have been retained in the rocket forces because missile officers must possess the extensive engineering

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knowledge which is necessary for the preparation of missiles for launch. At the same time it is not necessary to give them a knowledge of tactics to the same extent as is necessary for officers of other branch arms.

The engineer officer will have extensive theoretical engineer training in a specialty with a broad occupational specialization, and thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of design and operation of the weapons and combat equipment of his own branch arm, which will provide him with the ability to independently master new types of weapons in a short time. Accordingly, the engineer will possess sufficient knowledge in the field of tactics. The Main Directorate for Military Educational Institutions was set up within the Ministry of Defense to direct the training of officer personnel.

The training of officer personnel is a complex matter which requires constant movement forward. Creative thought and organizational activities of officers and generals, especially of the professor-instructor personnel of higher military educational institutions, is of great significance here. In our view, one of the most important tasks, the accomplishment of which will permit the successful fulfilment of the requirements of the Ministry of Defense, is as follows: to ensure the continuity of training of schools and academies, to eliminate any duplication and repetition in programs, to discard all that is unnecessary and secondary, to more widely introduce advanced methods of training, and to do everything in order to ensure even better training of officer personnel.

The military training of students in civilian higher educational institutions has also been significantly improved. This system has already existed in our country for several decades, and the many years of practice have shown that it answers the demands made upon it and, with relatively small economic expenditures, ensures the training of qualified reserve officers in many specialties for all branches of the armed forces, branch arms, and services.

At the present time, among students of higher educational institutions, reserve officers are undergoing training in more than 200 specialties: 46.7 percent, or the bulk of the officers being trained in higher educational institutions, are

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engineer-technical personnel; 28.0 percent -- medical; 22.7 percent -- command; and 2.6 percent -- rear services specialists.

Military training of students of civilian higher educational institutions is supported by specially established military departments which are manned by well-trained instructor personnel chiefly from the ranks of regular officers and generals. The necessary training resources are set up in the departments.

In the last five years, the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Government of the USSR, the Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the USSR have taken a number of steps which are improving the organization and quality of military training of students -- of the future reserve officers.

The status of military training of students in higher educational institutions is checked yearly and in 1967 the status was inspected by a special commission on the instructions of the Minister of Defense. The inspection showed that the military departments of institutions of higher education on the whole correctly organize the students' training process and ensure a thorough assimilation by them of theoretical knowledge and some practical skills for the fulfilment of duties according to their job assignments in the army and the navy.

In the past year, in a number of higher educational institutions, the military training specialties were reviewed with the object of bringing them as close as possible to the civilian specialty of the students. Measures have been taken for an extensive renovation of the training resources of the military departments and their more effective utilization in the training process. Methodological work, the exchange of experience, the dissemination of advanced methods of military training and military-patriotic education are being intensified. Beginning with the present year, specialized courses are being conducted in the higher military educational institutions of the armed forces to raise the qualifications of the instructor personnel of military departments of higher educational institutions.

In accordance with the order of the Minister of Defense and the Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the USSR, new programs of military training of students will be

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brought into force beginning with the 1968-1969 academic year. The number of hours for the practical working out of tactical tasks and for the mastery of military equipment has been significantly increased. A common guide for all branches of the armed forces, branch arms, and services called "Guide on the Organization, Planning, and Conduct of the Military Training of Students in Civilian Educational Institutions" is being developed. In the Ministry of Defense, a Directorate for Civilian Military Training has been set up in order to strengthen the supervision of military training of students, to organize more efficient and thorough monitoring of its implementation, and also to implement a training-methodology and organizational link with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the USSR.

In basic outline these are the practical measures being taken in the interest of putting the Universal Military Service Law into practice and of improving the system of manning of the Soviet Armed Forces. As yet not much has been done; the main job is still ahead.

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