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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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30 MAR 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

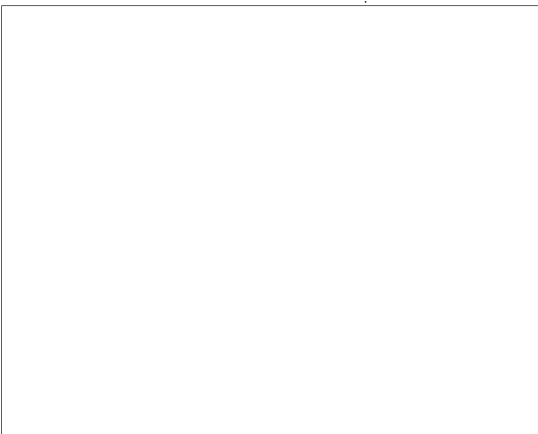
SUBJECT : STRATEGIC MISSILE BULLETIN: "Some Special Features of Party Political Work in Units of Missile Troops"

1. Enclosed is a verbatim translation of an article which appeared in a Soviet Ministry of Defense publication called Information Bulletin of the Missile Troops (Informatsionny Byulleten Raketnykh Voysk). This publication is classified TOP SECRET by the Soviets and was first issued in 1961. It is intended for generals and officers of the Missile Troops.

2. In the interests of protecting our source, this material should be handled on a need-to-know basis within your office. Requests for extra copies of this report or for utilization of any part of this document in any other form should be addressed to the originating office.

Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

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Original: The Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Military Representative of the President

Special Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

The Director of Intelligence and Research,
Department of State

The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

The Director for Intelligence,
The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence,
Department of the Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
U. S. Air Force

The Director, National Security Agency

Director, Division of Intelligence
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National Indications Center

Chairman, Guided Missiles and Astronautics
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COUNTRY : USSR

SUBJECT : STRATEGIC MISSILE BULLETIN: "Some Special Features of Party Political Work in Units of Missile Troops"

DATE OF INFO: July 1961

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT : Documentary

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Following is a verbatim translation of an article titled "Some Special Features of Party Political Work in Units of Missile Troops", which appeared in the 1961 First Issue of a TOP SECRET Soviet publication titled Information Bulletin of the Missile Troops (Informatsionnyy Byulleten Raketnykh Voysk). The 1961 First Issue was sent to press on 16 July 1961.

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Some Special Features of Party Political Work
in Units of Missile Troops

Our country, having entered the period of development of the structure of a Communist society, is experiencing an unprecedented advance in economics, science and culture. Under the leadership of the Communist Party the Soviet people are working with inspiration and intensity to accomplish the grandiose tasks of the Seven-Year Plan. The Soviet people received the decisions of the January Plenum of the Central Committee (CC) of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) with unprecedented enthusiasm and are preparing to greet the XXII Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union fittingly.

Each day in the life of the Soviet people is a day of successes, a day of victories which demonstrates with new strength the unquestionable superiority of the socialist system over capitalism, which has grown decrepit and outlived its age.

The Soviet artificial satellites of the Earth and Sun, ballistic missiles, lunik, space ships and the inter-planetary station launched in the direction of Venus - all of which were the first in the world - all this is grandiose. The flight through space, around the earth, of the Communist cosmonaut Yuriy Gagarin, accomplished on 12 April 1961 in the space ship "Vostok", is an event which has surpassed all the achievements of mankind and has astounded the whole world.

The triumphal flight of a Soviet man into the cosmos will remain forever as one of the unparalleled feats of our people, realizing a dream of mankind which is centuries old. This event reaffirmed with new force the superiority of the socialist social system over the capitalist. It arouses a feeling of legitimate pride in our Communist Party, which has reared such people as Yuriy Gagarin.

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The tremendous successes of the Soviet people in building Communism and the consistent peace-loving foreign policy of our Party and Government have raised the prestige of the Soviet Union to an immeasurable height throughout the world.

At the same time, we must not fail to take into account that there are still forces in the world which are capable of plunging the earth into the abyss of a new world war. This war will lead inevitably to the downfall of the entire capitalist system, but at the same time it will bring tremendous suffering to all peoples and will cause the destruction of material wealth amassed over centuries by the labor of mankind.

We cannot close our eyes to the dangers of the policy of military adventure and of possible aggression which is being conducted by the imperialist circles of the USA and its allies both against our country and against the countries of the socialist camp, and we must be ready to deliver a crushing strike against the aggressor if he forces us to this.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government show tireless concern for the strengthening of the Soviet Armed Forces in every way possible, for their technical armament and for their maintenance in constant combat readiness.

The creation of a new branch of the Armed Forces, the missile troops, serves to confirm this. The Central Committee of the CPSU has determined the practical means for turning the missile troops into a decisive firing force and into the leading branch of the Armed Forces.

The Party and Government are supplying the missile troops with the best and most modern combat equipment in the world. Ballistic missiles, capable of tremendous speed, altitude, and range, are able to deliver nuclear warheads of the most varied yields to any point on the Earth's surface in short periods of time and under any meteorological conditions.

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Soviet military science, guided by the instructions of V.I. Lenin on the skilful use of technology in military affairs, proceeds from the fact that combat equipment and weapons comprise one of the basic factors influencing the course and outcome of a modern war. However, no matter how powerful the weapons at the disposal of an army may be, the decisive role in achieving victory over the enemy belongs to human beings who possess high moral, political and combat qualities, who have fully mastered their combat equipment and who use it skilfully in battle.

Faultless knowledge of the new missile equipment by personnel and the maximum reduction of the time required to prepare missiles for launching from established stages of readiness are the basis of the combat readiness of missile units and subunits. In working to maintain the constant combat readiness of units, commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations must be guided by the well-known instructions of V.I. Lenin that, "Increased military preparation for a serious war requires not a gust, not a cry, not a combat slogan, but prolonged, strenuous, persistent and disciplined work on a mass scale."¹

The successful fulfilment of these great and crucial tasks depends on the ability of commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations to organize and conduct Party-political work correctly, in accordance with the requirements of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Here, special attention must be given directly to organizational work in subunits as personnel are mobilized for consistent and high quality performance of the tasks of combat preparation, for the development of socialist competition, for an increase in the quality of specialists, for the interchangeability of members of crews (nomer raschetov) and for the training of soldiers and non-commissioned officers in carrying out the duties of technicians.

1. V.I. Lenin, Collected Works, Volume 27, page 327.

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In training officer cadres, more attention must be paid to raising their ideological and theoretical level, to increasing their knowledge of special training and to developing in them the necessary habits in political-educational work with subordinates. It is essential for commanding officers and political organs to organize work to fulfil the requirements of Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of Missile Troops No. 020 of 18 April 1961, concerning the profound study of the missile equipment which is available for the armament of units and subunits. The effectiveness of Party-political work in fulfilling the tasks of special training depends largely on the political and military preparedness of commanding officers, political workers and of all Party activists, on their knowledge of the tasks assigned to units and subunits and on the ability to use the whole variety of forms and methods of political work under specific conditions correctly.

An analysis of experience of the work of commanding officers and political workers in missile units shows that only under conditions of high military training and technical competence can they organize and conduct Party-political work capably.

Great authority among the soldiers is enjoyed by those commanding officers and political workers who have a good knowledge of the missile and of the ground equipment supporting its launching and who can offer concrete assistance in studying and operating combat equipment. If the level of special training of commanding officers and political workers is low, tell-tale elements appear in Party-political work, decisions on vital questions are avoided and a record of the special features of the work with each category of serviceman is lacking.

Commanding officers and political workers should always remember the instruction of V.I. Lenin that, "The Communist who has not proved his ability to unify and unassumingly to direct the work of specialists by going into the essence of a subject and by studying it in detail, such a Communist is often harmful."¹

1. V.I. Lenin, Collected Works, Volume 32, page 121.

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In organizing and conducting Party-political work to fulfil the tasks of combat training and to maintain the constant combat readiness of units and subunits, commanding officers, political workers and leaders of Party and Komsomol organizations must consider the specific character of the missile troops.

Let us list the most characteristic features of Party-political work in missile troop units.

While they are on combat duty, units and subunits of the missile troops are performing a crucial combat task. They must be prepared to launch a crushing strike at the enemy at any time. Commanding officers, political workers and Party and Komsomol organizations must therefore carefully prepare subunits and units to carry out combat duty.

It is necessary to develop among the personnel of the missile troops such moral and combat qualities as high political consciousness, steadfastness, courage, high physical endurance and a feeling of personal responsibility of every soldier to the Motherland for the work entrusted to him. We must strive to have every officer, noncommissioned officer and soldier understand the tremendous social and historical significance of his daily activities thoroughly and see them as a decisive condition for strengthening the combat might of our country.

The most important task of commanding officers, political organs and Party organizations is to develop in the personnel a feeling of love for the missile troops, of pride in belonging to the main branch (vid) of the Armed Forces and a feeling of great responsibility for the task entrusted to them, and for the work they are allotted.

The statements of N.S. Khrushchev on the role and significance of the missile troops should be widely used, and the tasks confronting the missile soldiers (voiraketchik) which have been formulated in highly important documents of the Party and of the Soviet Government and

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in the orders and statements of the Minister of Defense of the USSR and of the Commander-in-Chief of the Missile Troops should be assigned in a timely manner.

During the period of preparation for combat duty, considerable work is conducted with the personnel in explaining the most important requirements of the Regulation on Combat Duty (Polozheniye o boyevom dezhurstve). In many missile units, special instructions have been worked out on the preparation of the subunits for combat duty, on the procedure for their relief and on the maintenance of equipment at combat readiness while on duty.

The experience in the work of preparing personnel and equipment for the performance of duty which was acquired in the troop unit commanded by Colonel G.D. Gavrilov and in which the political deputy is Lieutenant-Colonel A.N. Biryukov, merits attention. Here, three days before going on regular combat duty, the commanding officers of batteries, together with chiefs of sections (otdeleniye) compile a combat schedule (boyevoy raschet). Before going on duty, a maintenance day (parkovyy den) is conducted in launch, technical and transport batteries for the thorough preparation of combat equipment.

With the aim of mobilizing the servicemen and of raising the personal sense of responsibility of every officer, NCO and soldier for the fulfilment of the combat task, short meetings are conducted in the units before combat duty, with combat banners brought out in ceremonial array.

The laborious work of preparing personnel to go on combat duty develops in every soldier a feeling of personal responsibility for the fulfilment of the combat task and for constant combat readiness to deliver a crushing strike against the enemy.

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Missile weapons are collective weapons. The role of each member of a crew in fulfilling a combat task is higher than it is in any other branch or arm of troops. Unskilful or incorrect actions by one soldier, NCO or officer can result in failure to fulfil a combat task. Therefore, in the organization and conduct of Party-political work, personnel must be mobilized for the thorough study of combat equipment and for the acquisition of the necessary practical skills.

In the composition of crews and sections of missile units, there is a large number of different specialists: operators (operator), mechanics, electricians, launch specialists (startovik), engine specialists (dvigatelist), missile equipment specialists (bortovik), assemblers (montazhnik), drivers of special vehicles, etc. For example, in the checking section (otdeleniye proverki) of a technical battery, there are more than twenty specialists.

All this requires a different type of approach to the training and education of servicemen. In organizing Party-political work in missile units, one must remember that they contain no specialists of secondary importance, and that the fulfilment of the combat task as a whole depends on the level of instruction and training of each soldier.

In the troop unit commanded by Colonel G.K. Mikheyev, in which Lieutenant-Colonel I.M. Sosnovskiy is political deputy, all categories of specialists are well prepared to carry out their combat tasks. A check of this unit showed a high level of training among the personnel. The majority of the officers, NCOs and soldiers who were tested received excellent or good ratings. The unit received a good rating for special training. The personnel of a number of the subunits of this unit showed a heightened skill in their mastery of missile equipment and made an excellent showing in all types of combat preparation. In the subunit commanded by Member of the Party Bureau Engineer Captain V.V. Romantsev, all officers, NCOs and soldiers showed an excellent knowledge of special training in the test.

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The command of Major P.V. Bogodayev (the secretary of the primary Party organization) was well organized and coordinated. The Komsomol crews of Technical Lieutenant A.D. Balabannikov and Technical Lieutenant A.S. Romanov received excellent ratings. An exercise which was conducted showed a high level of training in the personnel of the unit and its constant combat readiness. More than 300 officers, NCOs and soldiers received commendations for an excellent level of training and for skilful operations in exercises.

About two-thirds of all officers in missile units are engineers and technicians. Many of these have completed military schools very recently. This fact should be borne in mind in organizing and conducting political-educational work. Young officers often need to have their ideological-political level raised and require a deep study of missile equipment and the acquisition of the practices necessary for the organization of educational work with subordinates. An officer can only accomplish the task of training NCOs and soldiers to carry out their functional duties in working with combat equipment properly if the level of his own technical knowledge corresponds to the modern level of development of the equipment.

The majority of officers in missile units work conscientiously and persistently to perfect their military and technical knowledge. They increase their knowledge not only independently, but in higher educational institutions and plants, they participate systematically in work on plans for combat preparation and in technical conferences and in establishing a training-material base (uchebno-materialnaya baza). In addition, officers are given individual problems with properly organized control. In many units, work with officers coming from other types of troops and not previously concerned with missile equipment is well thought out and conducted. Special groups are set up for them, training plans are worked out and exercises are organized.

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A high level of knowledge of special equipment was shown by officers of the troop unit commanded by Colonel M.V. Teodarovich (sic) in which the political deputy is Lieutenant Colonel P.A. Dmitriyev. A check established that all officers know the equipment well, have a high level of training and carry out their functional duties irreproachably.

In organizing work with engineers and technicians, it must be borne in mind that many of them are directly responsible for the organization and status of combat preparation, they are one-man commanders (komandir-yedinonachalnik) who educate their subordinates. Experience has shown that engineer cadres, as a rule, know the equipment well, but do not always possess command skills, organizational qualities or ability in educating people, and consequently they need serious assistance from Party and Komsomol organizations. An urgent task for higher commanding officers, political organs and Party organizations is to assist these cadres to become able commanding officers of one-man commands and educators of their subordinates.

The work of battery commander Major F.A. Bogdanov serves as an example of skilful education of young officers. He teaches young officers the practice of educational work, methods of instruction and education of subordinates, goes into all sides of the daily life of the officers, finds a warm word for each of them, and gives helpful advice on the mastery of equipment and the perfection of combat skills.

Discussions are regularly held with officers, at which questions of the organization of educational work are discussed. Recently, there has been discussion on such topics as "The personal example of a commanding officer is the basis of success in the military education of soldiers and officers", "Individual work with soldiers is the duty of an officer", "The personal example of a young officer at work and in daily life", and others.

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The considerable distance which separates missile subunits from one another in their performance of combat tasks makes it necessary to strengthen educational work directly in the battery, section and crew.

By studying the activities of the Party organs of a number of batteries, it was established that commanding officers and political workers have achieved some successes in turning the battery into a center of political-educational work. In this an important role was played by the creation of Party organizations along cell lines (na pravakh tsekhovykh) in batteries and combat subunits, in accordance with the resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU "The Structure of Party Organizations of the Soviet Army and Navy" which was adopted in August 1960.

The creation of Party organizations in combat subunits is of great significance in the strengthening of Party influence over all aspects of the life and activities of the personnel and in the further development of all instructional and educational work among the troops.

Many of the Party organizations which have been created in batteries have already shown themselves to be authoritative combat collectives, exercising a fruitful influence on the training and education of soldiers and on the development of socialist competition.

Communists in batteries and combat subunits raise the political consciousness of soldiers, inspire them to the successful fulfilment of plans for combat preparation and raise their combat readiness by offering dependable support to commanding officers in their accomplishment of the tasks of instruction and education of personnel and in the struggle to strengthen military discipline.

The Party organization works well in the 2nd Battery of the troop unit commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F.F. Yevseyev. There are eight members of the CPSU in the

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complement of the battery. Close cooperation between the commanding officer of the battery and the Party organization contributed to the execution of combat launchings with a rating of "excellent". The fine personal example of the Communists at study and at work is the basis for the successful activities of the Party organization of the battery. The Communists of the battery devote painstaking study to the strong and weak sides of the men, which makes it possible to educate the personnel successfully.

The experience in political-educational work with the personnel of the battery of which Captain M.P. Shudro is commanding officer, Senior Lieutenant A.N. Katulin is secretary of the Party organization and Junior Sergeant A.A. Trofimenko is secretary of the Komsomol organization deserves attention. Here, experience from the work of the NCOs is studied and analyzed and skills in educational work with subordinates are imparted to them. Methods of educational work with individual soldiers who have distinctive character traits are discussed and questions connected with the practical application of one or another condition or requirement of the regulations are examined regularly at meetings of NCOs. The fact that he systematically instructs Komsomol group organizers (grupkomsorg), agitators and the editors of combat news letters (boyevoy listok), striving for actuality and effectiveness in the work of each, is also a positive factor in the work of the battery commander.

The plan for political-educational work is drawn up by the commanding officer of the battery with the participation of the secretaries of the Party and Komsomol organizations. The battalion political officer takes part in the working out of this plan and also confirms it.

The painstaking, purposeful work of the commanding officer of the battery and of the Party and Komsomol organizations has permitted good results to be achieved in fulfilling plans for combat preparation and in the maintenance of constant combat readiness in the subunits.

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Success of missile units in performing combat tasks is inconceivable without clear-cut organization and the skilful execution of coordinated action between the assembly brigades of the technical-repair base and the launch batteries and launch groups. In organizing Party political work with the personnel of a technical-repair base, it is necessary to take into account the special importance of the work being done by the servicemen, to mobilize the soldiers for efficient observance of requirements of the instructions and orders which regulate the technique of preparing nose cones, paying special attention to the observance of precautionary and security measures. In organizing work with the officer personnel of a technical-repair base, it is necessary to consider the important question of their mastery of associated (smezchnyy) specialties and their capacity for interchangeability (vzaimozamenyayemost) in carrying out work.

Commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations must educate the personnel of the launch batteries and of the assembly brigades of a technical-repair base in the spirit of combat cooperation, and must explain to them the essence and principles of organizing coordinated action, striving for clear understanding of the role and place of each soldier, group and subunit in carrying out the assigned task. Some experience in efficient coordination between assembly brigades and launch batteries has been acquired in units. For example, the personnel of the assembly brigade headed by Engineer Major A.I. Novozhilov successfully performs the tasks of preparing nose cones. Here, the officers have a thorough knowledge of the equipment and sound practical skill in carrying out their work. In an exercise conducted recently, the combat crews of the brigade managed their tasks successfully. The personnel coordinated their work skilfully with soldiers of the launch battery, which permitted the combat task to be carried out within the established time and with a high standard of quality.

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The skilful and efficiently organized coordination between the assembly brigade of the technical-repair base and the launch batteries deserves attentive study, analysis and wide distribution.

Missile units carry out missile launchings comparatively infrequently and the role of comprehensive drills (kompleksnoye zanyatiye) and of practical training (uprazhneniye) in ensuring the constant combat readiness of missile units is therefore increased.

The mastery by subunits of such stages of combat work as the deployment and packing up of the complex of ground equipment, the preparation of missiles at technical and launch sites and the fuelling of a missile with fuel components has paramount significance. Here the actions of each member of a combat crew should be made to be automatic.

The preparation and carrying out of combat launchings are in essence exercises for the record (zachetnoye uprazhneniye) which permit the determination of the level of special preparation of personnel and the readiness of crews and subunits to fulfil a combat task.

It is necessary to prepare comprehensive drills carefully, not permitting oversimplification or indulgence. In the conduct of educational work with personnel, one must aim at meeting the requirements of the Commander-in-Chief of Missile Troops for the conduct of 50 percent of comprehensive drills at night, at the careful working out of the technology and methods of preparing missiles for launchings from established degrees of readiness, at the development and practical mastery of methods of seeking out and eliminating defects in the control system, in the propulsion assemblies and in the combat systems and the assemblies of the ground equipment.

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In comprehensive drills the smooth functioning of combat subunits is achieved, and the functional duties of specialists and interchangeability of combat crews and sections is worked out. Just as, in aviation, instructional and training flights are systematically conducted in order to maintain a high state of combat readiness, so in missile units comprehensive drills are organized with the aim of preparing combat crews for the final step - for combat launchings of missiles.

Political work among personnel at launch and technical sites acquires paramount significance. It must be devised and carried out in the period of preparation for the conduct of comprehensive drills, during the drills, and while summing up. The period of preparation for comprehensive drills is used to the maximum for a thorough study of equipment. Besides the planned work, technical conferences, and evenings for questions and answers on equipment are arranged during this time, group and individual discussions on subjects of interest to the soldiers are conducted and lectures and reports are read. Questions of the preparation of comprehensive drills are discussed at bureau conferences and at the meetings of the Party and Komsomol organizations.

Conferences on method are conducted with the officers, at which the most important problems of work with personnel in the comprehensive drills are discussed.

In the period of preparation, much attention is paid to the explanation of the specific tasks facing each specialist in the forthcoming drill; socialist competition is organized among soldiers, crews and sections for the better performance of tasks; the experience of outstanding trainees and of outstanding sections and crews which have achieved successes in previously conducted drills is propagandized; the requirements of instructions on observing security measures are explained. In the period of preparation use is made of the conditioning (trenazh) of personnel.

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The final stage of the preparatory period is the controlled warming-up exercises (rozygrysh) which determine the degree of preparedness of the personnel and their capability for participation in the conduct of comprehensive drills.

Positive experience in Party-political work in the preparation and conduct of comprehensive drills has been amassed in a number of missile units. The personnel of Captain V.I. Kadochnikov's battery achieved excellent results in combat preparation. The command element of the unit and large unit graded the battery as excellent. It successfully carried out more than 15 comprehensive drills and its personnel retrained two launch batteries.

The transition to comprehensive drills in a battery is preceded by sound theoretical training of the personnel. The conduct of the comprehensive drills is efficiently planned. On the eve of the comprehensive drills, a specific warming-up exercise is conducted: in classrooms members of crews repeat operations on diagrams and individual assemblies, explain which physical processes occur in the performance of particular functions during the preparation of a missile for launching, etc. The personnel repeat the basic provisions of the Firing Manual (Nastavleniye po ognevoy sluzhbe), their knowledge of which is tested by commanding officers and chiefs of crews and sections. In the warming-up exercises serious attention is paid to the acquaintance of the personnel with associated and secondary specialties. On the eve of the drills equipment is carefully prepared in order not to permit its failure and the disruption of the drills.

Successful preparation for the conduct of comprehensive drills is facilitated by well-conceived political-educational work with the personnel. A plan of the measures for the commanding officer, Party group organizers and the Komsomol bureau is drawn up for each comprehensive drill, taking into consideration the period of preparation and the

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course of previous drills and summarizing them. Experience has shown that unified plans of work in a battery for each comprehensive drill are vital and meet the necessary demands. They permit the commanding officer, the chiefs of sections, the Party group organizers, the Komsomol bureau, the agitators and the editors of combat news letters to work purposefully.

During the period of preparation for the comprehensive drills, officers, NCOs and soldiers are given specific tasks, measures for the dissemination of positive experience of work in past comprehensive drills are organized and carried out, the study of instructions and regulations is organized, a map depicting tactical aspects of the comprehensive drill is prepared, discussions on the carrying out of security measures in work on equipment are held, etc.

During the course of comprehensive drills the attention of personnel is drawn to the careful inspection of combat equipment, to the timely detection and rapid repair of faults and to the high-quality horizontal and vertical testing of the missile. Wide distribution is given to express news letters (listok-molnin), in which the successes of the best soldiers are publicized and well-organized coordination among crew members and between sections is noted.

Commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations must pay particular attention to the problems of preparing and conducting qualified critiques of comprehensive drills. The main tasks of a critique are to review the course of the drills carefully to show up the errors and blunders of individual crew members, to establish and make an evaluation of each soldier, to single out those who distinguished themselves and to relate their experiences. To make the critique more instructive, it must be carefully prepared: a technological schedule must be drawn and diagrams and other visual aids selected.

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Political workers and leaders of the Party and Komsomol organizations should take an active part in the preparation and conduct of critiques. In the critiques, Party-political work in preparing for and conducting comprehensive drills is summarized, its content, forms and methods are analyzed, the most effective measures are noted, leading experience in the work of the troops is summarized and the tasks of disseminating and instilling it are assigned. Critiques must be especially carefully prepared for exercises during which transitions from readiness No. 4 to readiness No. 3 and from readiness No. 3 to readiness No. 2 and No. 1 are carried out.

Methodological classrooms must be prepared and methodology councils established in regiments which are to occupy themselves with the summary of incoming material, to work out correct methodological practices in the use of equipment and to analyze mistakes which were allowed.

The most important task of commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations is the analysis, summary and dissemination of the leading experience of outstanding performers in combat and political preparation, of outstanding crews, sections and batteries, and the maintenance in every way possible of the initiative of the personnel. In carrying out this work, one should be guided by the instructions of the Communist Party on the necessity for close study of, and scientific familiarization with, the experience of the masses, the genuine creators of all that is new and progressive.

However, in a number of units, comprehensive drills are conducted without proper control, under inadmissible conditions and with indulgence. The requirements for documentation on technical performance and measures for technical security are often flagrantly violated. The problems of coordinating the operations of launch batteries and combat support subunits are inadequately worked out.


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The drills are often conducted without a tactical character (ton). In such situations, the Party organizations must go deeply into the substance of these problems and must help the commanding officer to eliminate shortcomings.

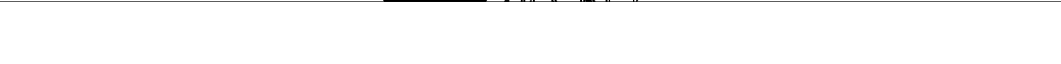
The transition to comprehensive drills frequently begins without sufficient theoretical preparation of the personnel, which has a negative effect on the quality of these drills, especially during launchings at the firing range (poligon). Because of the absence of firm theoretical knowledge, the "cramming" of personnel is sometimes engaged in during comprehensive drills. Hence, crew members carry out operations mechanically and are not able to understand the physical processes while they prepare an article (izdeliye) for a launch. All this leads to a lowering of the quality of the comprehensive drills. Thus, for example, comprehensive drills are very poorly prepared for and conducted in the troop unit commanded by Colonel I.T. Salnitskiy. In this unit, most of the comprehensive drills were rated "fair" and "poor".

In practice, there are cases where individual commanding officers, engineers and political workers take no part in the preparation and conduct of comprehensive drills for a long time and organize Party-political work poorly during this period, so that batteries reach the firing range unprepared for practical launchings. Preparation of batteries for combat launchings was irresponsibly treated in the troop unit commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel V.T. Khilinskiy. The 6th Battery of this unit received a poor rating for combat launching for the period during which it was at the firing range. The command element and the Party organization of the unit drew no conclusions from this. This caused another battery of this same unit to receive a poor rating for combat launching somewhat later.

Instances occur in which launch batteries receive poor ratings in tests on the firing range and are not allowed to carry out the independent launching of missiles.

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It follows, from what has been said, that the move of launch batteries to the firing range to carry out combat launchings must be preceded by well organized, high quality theoretical preparation, the final stage of which is the comprehensive drill.

In order to accomplish this task successfully, it is necessary to organize and conduct Party-political work skilfully, both in the period of preparation and during the drill. In order to achieve positive results in Party-political work, it is very important for the commanding officer, the political workers and the active Party and Komsomol members themselves to know how to perform the tasks being worked on in drills. They must make use of the most effective forms and methods of political-educational work, taking into account the specific nature and particular features of the situation which has arisen. The main attention should be concentrated on work in sections and crews and on individual work with all categories of servicemen who are participating directly in the comprehensive drills.

The maintenance of combat readiness in missile units is directly dependent on the skilful use and conservation of missile equipment. Particular attention must be paid in missile units to the storage of combat supplies (boyezapas) and also to the timely and high quality performance of the work laid down in regulations (reglamentnaya rabota). The use and storage of missiles and ground equipment, and an analysis of the shortcomings discovered in carrying out comprehensive drills, especially during practical launchings, must be at the center of the attention of commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations. The guarantee of our success lies in care for combat equipment and in its competent use.

In missile units, some experience has been acquired in the skilful use and conservation of missile equipment and in its careful maintenance. At the same time, there are serious shortcomings in the use and conservation of combat equipment. Cases in which personnel are guilty

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of putting combat equipment out of action have still not been eliminated. This occurs, as a rule, because of ignorance of the equipment and of the relevant instructions and also because of the negligent attitude of responsible persons toward the performance of their official duties. For example, in one troop unit, two expensive missiles were put out of operation during unloading.

Cases in which equipment is incompetently used and in which it is put of operation prematurely occur in other units also. Unfortunately, in some units, consideration and analysis of the reasons for failures and for the breakage of equipment are poorly organized.

Maintenance days are of great importance in the preservation of equipment and in its uninterrupted operation. On these days, technical resources should be stockpiled at the assemblies of the ground equipment and of the training (uchebnyy) missiles for subsequent use. Political workers, Party committees and Party organizations must give effective help to commanding officers and engineers in the organization and conduct of maintenance days. The following advance preparation for a maintenance day must be made: a clear-cut work schedule must be compiled, and each crew member, soldier, NCO and officer must be given a specific task. Measures for Party-political work must be carefully devised in the periods of preparing for and conducting a maintenance day. At the end of a maintenance day, it is necessary to sum up the work, to point out defects, to note positive features, to name outstanding soldiers and to propagandize their experience widely.

The commanding officers, political workers and Party organizations of missile units must direct the efforts of servicemen to the development and substantiation of various methods of maintaining the combat readiness of missiles during lengthy storage under the most varied conditions (storage outdoors, in low temperatures, under various climatic conditions, etc.).

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Great demands are made on the personnel of missile units in observing the rules of equipment security, especially when setting a missile up on the launch mount and when filling it with fuel components. Crew members who do not know the rules of equipment security are not allowed to take part in the work.

Missile units receive the most highly perfected combat equipment. It can be successfully operated and used only by persons who are technically competent and disciplined, who have an excellent knowledge of these formidable weapons and who fulfil the requirements of the instructions and the regulations for operating combat equipment and for observing security measures strictly. Unfortunate occurrences with grave consequences can take place not only in work with a nose cone and while filling a missile with fuel components, but also during the conduct of other operations for the preparation and launching of missiles, if the established security rules and measures are not observed. Hence, the most important responsibility of every serviceman in a missile unit who works with the equipment, and even more if he participates in the preparations for launching and in the launching of missiles, irrespective of his rank and official duties, is the strict fulfilment of the established rules governing the use of equipment and the observance of security measures.

An important place in the work of commanding officers, political workers and Party and Komsomol organizations of missile units must be occupied by the problems of mobilizing personnel to increase revolutionary vigilance, to safeguard military and state secrets and to obey the established secrecy procedure absolutely both inside and outside the unit. In the organization and conduct of this work, it is necessary to explain thoroughly the requirements of the Communist Party for the increase of revolutionary vigilance under modern conditions, and to implant a burning hatred of American imperialism in the missile soldiers by all forms and methods of political-educational work, cultivating in them a high sense of responsibility for the fulfilment of their military duty and for the maintenance of constant combat readiness in subunits and units.

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In Order No. 0085 of 1960, the Commander-in-Chief of Missile Troops demands the adoption of urgent and pressing measures for increasing vigilance. It must be remembered that the primary objectives of enemy intelligence are our missile troops. The problems of increasing vigilance and of the strict observance of all procedural requirements for the storage of secret literature and other documents have thus acquired especially great significance today.

However, serious defects in meeting these requirements occur in a number of units. In particular, there are many cases of breaches of the Regulations for Garrison and Guard Duty (Ustav garnizonnoy i karaulnoy sluzhb): In one troop unit, soldiers, together with the commander of the guard, left a combat missile unguarded. Instances occur of soldiers wilfully leaving subunits which are on combat duty. Also, loose talkers who give away military secrets have not been done away with. Thus, Private Sadchikov divulged secret information in a letter to his parents. There are cases of losing personal and service documents, which are a valuable windfall to enemy intelligence. In some units and subunits, questions of increasing vigilance are not always given proper attention: they are seldom discussed in Party and Komsomol bureaus and meetings and at meetings of servicemen. Lectures, reports, and discussions on questions of vigilance are conducted for the soldiers, but cases of carelessness, thoughtlessness and complacency are not always met with the proper condemnation.

Those soldiers who perform guard duty vigilantly, who display irreproachable discipline and who keep combat and state secrets strictly should be publicized more in the work of education for vigilance. In political-education work with the soldiers, more attention should be given to questions of unmasking the ideology of imperialism and of telling the soldiers about the ways and methods of the espionage and diversionary work of American and other enemy intelligence services. The words of N.S. Khrushchev must always be remembered: "We must be

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vigilant every day and every hour ... It is necessary for the soldiers of peace, the warriors for justice, to be always ready to repel the aggressor..."¹

The successful performance of the tasks of combat preparation and the maintenance of constant combat readiness are inconceivable without strict military discipline, procedure according to regulations and good organization in units and subunits. The efforts of the commanding officer and Party and Komsomol organizations must be directed toward the maintenance of a firm procedure, according to regulations, for the strict fulfilment of the requirements of the Central Committee of the CPSU, of the Main Military Council, of the Minister of Defense of the USSR and of the Commander-in-Chief of Missile Troops for a radical improvement in military discipline.

It is necessary to strengthen work in the mobilization of servicemen for the thorough study and undeviating observance of the Regulation on Internal Service (Ustav vnutrenney sluzhby) and the Disciplinary Regulation (Distsiplinarnyy ustav), which were confirmed by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 23 August 1960.

In order to strengthen military discipline the force of the community spirit of the army should be more actively used and it should be directed to combat negligence toward military service, drunkenness and other misdemeanors which disgrace the name of a Soviet soldier.

These are some of the special features of Party political work in missile units for the fulfilment of the tasks of combat preparation and for the maintenance of constant combat readiness.

Thus, it is apparent from all that has been said, that only the harmonious mutual work of commanding officers, political workers, engineers and Party and Komsomol organizations will ensure a high standard of combat preparation and the constant combat readiness of subunits and units of the missile troops.

1. N.S. Khrushchev, Concluding words at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 7 May 1960.

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