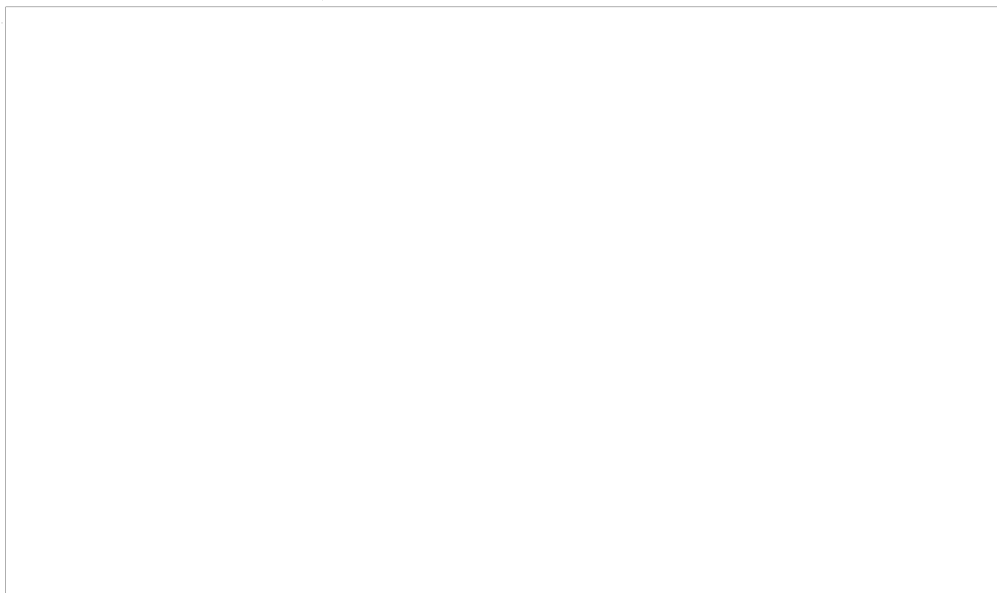
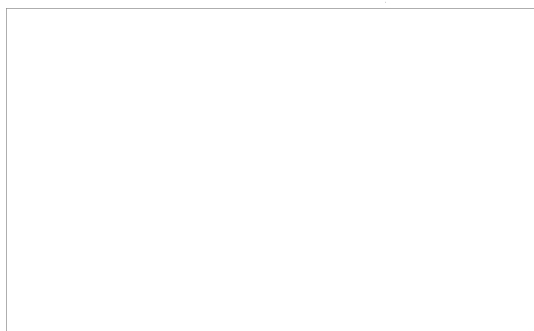


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Excellent Support of Flights

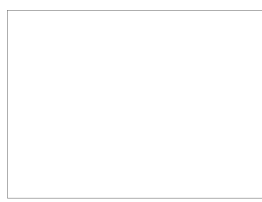
Krasnaya Zvezda, 17 Jan 52
Russian d-nsp.



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FOR EXCELLENT FLIGHT MAINTENANCE



Intensified training of airmen is in progress at the military and training airfields of our Air Force. Pilots, navigators, radiomen-gunners, and aircraft specialists, carrying out their sacred military duty, are consistently improving their military knowledge, making new gains in strengthening discipline, constantly increasing their combat fitness, and strengthening the might of the Soviet Air Fleet. An important condition to the achievement of good results in the combat training of airmen is the uninterrupted, well-organized maintenance of flight training for them. In this connection, the performance of Air Force rear service troops, rightly termed the immediate aides to fliers, takes on tremendous importance. Their duties include the supplying of fuel, ammunition, uniforms, food, and other military and technical equipment to flight squads. They are also responsible for the care of airfields, for the maintenance of all facilities of the airfield service in constant readiness.

The job of the service troops is an honorable and responsible one. The quality of the combat training of flight units and squads depends to a considerable extent on the rear service troops' discipline, initiative, and ability to overcome difficulties. Their timely and thorough fulfillment of all the requirements of the flight squads creates favorable conditions for the successful completion of training tasks by each airman. The work of the Air Force service troops represents a large and composite complex of varied specialities.

Over-all success in the maintenance of flights depends on the thorough knowledge and careful fulfillment of his duties by each specialist. But, in addition to this, is the need for a compulsory high-level of discipline, industriousness, constant display of initiative and resourcefulness on the part of each soldier of the rear service battalions, irregardless of the particular nature of his job.

The inculcation of these qualities, which each soldier of the Air Force rear service should possess, is the responsibility of the commanders of the service battalions. They must not for one moment slacken their attention on the training of their subordinates in the spirit of the demands of the military oath and Soviet Army regulations. "Our commander," as M. V. Frunze pointed out, "must present the task in such a way that the mass sees in him not only a technical leader, but a teacher as well." It is precisely in this light that the leading commanders of the Air Force service battalions consider their official duty.

The work of Officer Bushin serves as an example in this respect. He has effected the successful performance of his battalion due to well-presented educational work. Here, each soldier is perfectly aware of the importance of the job given him, resulting in a complete complex of maintenance for the flight training of airmen. The troops understand perfectly, for example, that the quality of airfield preparations constitutes a vital factor in the combat fitness of the flight squad. Consequently, they spare no effort to ensure constant maintenance of the type of system on the airfield which makes

flights possible under any conditions.

As is well known, the winter training of airmen is attended by many peculiar features. Winter also bring increased demands on the troops of the service battalions. Low temperatures, changeable weather, frequent snows compel them to do many additional jobs to ensure all conditions necessary for successful flight practice. Troops of Officer Bushin's battalion have thoroughly studied the peculiarities of operations under winter conditions. Attending well in advance to preparations for winter operation of airfield facilities, the commander also provided for their maintenance and use in accordance with regulations requirements. Here, the importance of maintaining the airfield in constant readiness for flights has been give the proper emphasis.

Flight day is the most crucial moment in the training of airmen. It also tests the combat fitness, the discipline of the troops of the Air Force service battalions. The progress of the flights reflects whether the disposition of forces has been carried out correctly, whether the personnel of all groups of the Air Force rear service has been sufficiently well trained to meet the all-important tasks of materiel supply and airfield servicing for flight day.

The constant desire to achieve the conditions necessary to the combat training of flight personnel compels commanders of service battalions to achieve a better understanding of the requirements and demands of airmen. Wherever there exists a close, business-like relation between flight squads and Air Force

service specialists, wherever the commanders of service battalions try to comprehend thoroughly the nature of the fliers' combat training, there, as a general rule, there are no interruptions in maintenance of flights. Officer Borisov's system of operations serves as a model in this connection. Officer Borisov, as a rule, first thoroughly studies the given task of servicing the flights, makes his corresponding estimates, then summons his subordinates, acquaints them with the nature of the impending flight day, and gives them specific instructions. On the eve of the flights, the commander carefully checks the readiness of the air field service equipment, makes certain that each subordinate knows his duties. Officer Borisov makes it a strict rule that all specialists of the subunit must be at their posts long before the first take-off, that their efficient, well-coordinated work excludes the possibility of any interruption in the flight-day schedule.

The work of the political apparatus, of Party and Komsomol organizations, must be directed toward the achievement of a high-level of combat training, discipline, and organization of the Air Force service battalion. They must ensure the leading role of Communists and Komsomols in combat training, vigorously assist the commanders in the study, summation, and dissemination of the work of outstanding trainees. The situation wherein certain specialists of the Air Force rear service troops are occasionally forced, due to the nature of their official duties, to be far from their battalion, compels Party political workers to think through more carefully the forms and content of their work. In the planning and carrying out of mass political work,

they must take into strict account all the varied duties of Air Force rear service troops.

The development of aviation equipment, its continued improvement, places great demands on the troops of service battalions. While creating new types of planes, Soviet designers are at the same time making revisions in the design of the technical facilities for flight maintenance. The improved equipment at the disposal of the service battalions demands of their personnel a thorough theoretical knowledge and a high educational level in their work. Model materials and equipment for maintenance of flight training of airmen presupposes a high level of training of all Air Force rear service troops, without exception. It is doubtful whether the efficient performance of a service battalion could be achieved if its specialists operating the pneumatic power plant had not studied their equipment to perfection, had not acquired the skills necessary to carry out their duties. It is impossible to achieve normal flight training conditions if the specialists involved do not know the principles of the storage, analysis, and transporting of fuel and lubricants. Some delay is inevitable during a flight day if the operators of special machines have not learned the regulations for auto-transport traffic on airfields, if they do not know how use repair apparatus according to all the rules.

It is for this reason that commanders of service battalions, along with intensified work on maintenance of flight practice for airmen, must continually strive for excellent presentation and a high level of organization of the training of their subordinates. They must see to it that well-trained instructors are

chosen and must personally control the quality of and the time devoted to these instructions. The experience of leading commanders shows that the time and effort which they spend in the organization and conduct of theoretical training of their subordinates more than pays for itself in the practical activity of all branches of the Air Force rear service troops.

The strict adherence to all the requirements of military regulations, the constant improvement of military skills, unceasing effort to strengthen discipline and to increase organization constitute the chief conditions for success in solving the honorable and vital tasks faced by Air Force rear service troops. The primary duty of specialists of the service battalions is to be equal to the demands put upon them and to further the continual improvement of the flying skills of airmen by their own efficient, well-coordinated work.

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