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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

This information was obtained by Department of the Army interrogators and is being forwarded essentially as received.

General

1. Source stated that within the Soviet Border Guard zastava, the various duties which were of a tactical nature were performed by several different types of patrolling groups. The types of groups and their duties were outlined in a Border Guard manual entitled Conduct of Duties in Border Guard Detachments (Instruktsiya Neseniya Sluzhby Pogranichnikh Otryadov). Source said that he had seen this manual and claimed that it carried a 'secret' classification. Sergeants read out of it to privates in source's group and the information contained in the paragraphs that follow is largely based on its contents as well as on the theoretical training which source received at the Lenkoran' (N 38-45, E 48-50) Border School, the refresher training which he received in his zastava, and his own personal experience.

Duties of Border Guard Patrols

2. The general term for Border Guard patrols was naryady.¹ They were composed of two, and sometimes three, men. One man was designated as the senior. Normally, both members of a patrol were privates or privates first class, who were inspected and checked by sergeants and officers. After receiving its daily orders, a patrol was not permitted to re-enter the barracks or other unit buildings prior to being relieved. The number of patrols assigned to duty each day varied with the prevailing circumstances. Normally, however, a zastava maintained three patrols during the day and four to five at night.
3. On leaving its zastava area, a patrol was required to take along the following: 60 rounds of ammunition per rifle or two magazines of ammunition per SMG, one special field telephone with a receiver that could be plugged in at various connections along the border, one set of handcuffs, a pair of field glasses (for daytime use only), an observation record, ten flares (green, red, white, and smoke), a lantern, knives (for night duty), and two fragmentation or splinter-type grenades per man.

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4. After loading their rifles under the control of the zastava dispatch orderly or charge of quarters, the members of a patrol left the zastava area. As they left, the senior member was required to indicate the direction in which the individual members were to go and the distance which they were to keep between each other. He was also required to instruct them how to behave in the event they met up with a border violator (narushitel) or discovered signs indicating the presence of one.
5. As a rule, Border Guards were to keep under cover while on patrol duty. In flat areas, they were to take advantage of any foxholes or trenches which had been dug previously or to move by means of short runs ending by falling flat under bushes, etc., or into holes. Source claimed that, when Border Guard troops guarded open border territory, they were issued camouflaged ponchos. Where source served, the troops had to disguise themselves with branches and had to take advantage of any cover available.

Arrest Procedures Followed by Border Guard Patrols

6. At the first sign of a border violator, the members of a patrol were to take positions which enabled them to surround him. Sharp, loud orders were to be called from both sides for the violator to halt with his hands raised. If he seemed to have a weapon, the patrol personnel would order him to discard it. If the violator appeared to show no resistance, one of the men called the zastava and made a request for an emergency squad (trevozhnykh or trevozhnaya grupa). However, if the point at which apprehension was made was located too far from a telephone plug-in connection, then the first duty of the patrol was to make a personal search of the violator. The search was to be accomplished as follows: One man covered the prisoner with his weapon; the other ran his hands along the prisoner's hands, arms, and body, down to his feet. If the violator was a female, only the upper parts of her body and clothing were to be checked. As the violator discarded his weapon, he was ordered to move a few steps away from it. At the slightest indication that he might attempt to escape or offer resistance, the patrol was to handcuff him.
7. If the arrest of a border violator occurred in the daytime and in an open area, the patrol was required to take him to the nearest form of cover or, if no cover was available, he was to be ordered to lie down in a foxhole or trench. As a last resort, the patrol could make him lie down and cover him with mud, sand, grass, or branches until the arrival of the emergency squad. If the arrest occurred in a covered area, one member of the patrol was to check the territory within a radius of 100 meters from the point of arrest to insure that the crosser did not throw anything away. A more detailed search of the area and the route taken by the crosser was to be made after he had been taken away by the emergency patrol. The transfer of the prisoner from the patrol to the emergency⁵⁴ had to be carried out in such a manner as to keep it from being spotted from the opposite side of the border.
8. On daytime observation duty, a patrol had to be on constant alert for any activity on the opposite side of the border. The senior member had to record even the most minor occurrences in the observation record (zhurnal nablyudeniya). Important occurrences were to be reported immediately by phone. In addition, regular telephonic reports were to be made to the zastava every half hour. If telephonic contact could not be made, the patrol had to send up a flare.

Precautions Taken by Border Guard Patrols

9. At night, patrol members were not allowed to smoke, sleep, or talk loudly. During the hours of darkness, they were to be especially alert for any kind of sound, such as, barking, bird calls, the sound of snapping branches, etc.

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10. If a patrol member discovered any indication that someone had crossed the KSP (Kontrolno-Sledovaya Polosa), he called the emergency squad.² As soon as the emergency squad was called, the patrol was to follow the tracks or signs left by the border violator. If the violator headed into the USSR, the patrol was to follow the tracks rapidly and attempt to apprehend him. If he headed out of the USSR, the patrol was to follow the tracks to the border and attempt to catch or kill the violator before he left Soviet territory. If the tracks of a violator were distinguishable, the best course was to employ dogs.
11. If the patrol spotted a neighboring patrol approaching its area, both were required to head towards each other and, at about 100 meters before their point of encounter, both were to exchange identification and friendly greetings.
12. Source stated that every border guard was to acquire a very precise and detailed knowledge of the area along his sector of the border and had to be constantly alert for even the slightest of changes, such as broken branches, new bushes, etc.
13. A patrol had to detain any individual sending or receiving any kind of signals, such as, light, sound, etc., across the border.
14. The patrol was to repair border alarm devices only if so ordered. The only device which was never to be handled by anyone except specialists from the komendatura or otryad was the KLEN (pronounced "KLON" - Kasatelnoye Lokatsionnoye Nablyudeniye). During the day, attempts were to be made to camouflage any repair activities which a patrol carried out. Such repair work was not to decrease the operating efficiency or have an adverse influence on the capacities of the Border Guard patrol.
15. Members of a Border Guard patrol could wear civilian clothing along probable routes of border violator traffic and movement. Each guard had to be very careful to imitate exactly the habits of the local populace of the area in which he found himself. Source was taught this only in theory. He never knew anyone in his own unit who had worn civilian clothes for this purpose.

Types of Border Guard Patrols and Border Guard Details

16. 50X144th Border Guard Otryad, the normal daily routine for a given 24-hour period required the use of the following details:
 - a. Two observation posts (which were replaced by three or four border guards moving on foot in predesignated areas if visibility was poor).
 - b. Three or four patrols.
 - c. Six sentries for zastava headquarters. Each sentry stood a four-hour tour.
 - d. Two zastava CQ's, each on 12 hours duty.
17. This was the normal, repeating daily pattern for at least half of the privates in source's zastava. Other details were set up as specifically designated by the zastava CO.
18. During his service in the Border Guard, source encountered eleven distinct types of patrols and details, each with a different mission. They were the following:

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- a. Dozor (foot patrol) - This type of patrol was composed of two or three men mainly operating along the border. It was sent to predetermined parts of the borderline sector primarily to check the KSP (plowed strip) for indications of border crossing. After it accomplished this, it returned to its zastava. If a border violation was discovered, then the patrol was to take all necessary and possible steps to apprehend the violator. The period of duty for a dozor was four to eight hours, depending on the time it took to cover specific areas.
- b. "NP" or Nablyudatel'nyy Punkt (observation post) - This was a daily patrol consisting of two men. Its main mission was continuously to observe the part of the border sector assigned to it for the day or certain routes or channels in foreign territory which lead towards the USSR. Sometimes, it was to observe only one specific point. An "NP" patrol was on duty eight hours. If visibility grew poor, the "NP" could change from a stationary to a moving patrol on its own initiative, but the zastava would have to be informed of the change.
- c. Zaslon (interception group) - This was a rare type of patrol which source never witnessed in operation. It was sent in order to intercept a person or persons suspected of intending to leave USSR territory for any reason. A zaslon could operate along or near the border, or even inland, and it could check documents.
- d. Sekret (concealed post) - This was also a rare type of patrol which source never witnessed in actual operation. It operated only if circumstances warranted its use. Usually it was sent out to apprehend a border violator in a small, specific area which did not exceed 400 meters in diameter. Usually it was equipped with a buzzer device (pishchalka) that had a thin wire attached to it. The wire extended over the entire 400 meters. The period of duty for such a patrol ranged from four to six hours.
- e. Zasada (ambush) - Ambushes were placed at predetermined spots situated along the route expected to be taken by an armed border violator. Usually they were placed close to the border and could be at road intersections, on bridges, at entrances to ravines or valleys, or at the edge of a forest or bushy area. The ambush was to be well-camouflaged in order to take the violator by surprise. Duty at an ambush point was from six to eight hours. Source, himself, never witnessed an actual ambush in operation.
- f. Patrul' (patrol) - These patrols were sent to check for documents among the populace of villages in border areas. They operated three or four times per month and lasted about eight hours each time. Source was never a member of such a patrol but saw some in operation.
- g. Chasovoy Zastavy (zastava sentry) - This man was on guard around the zastava buildings as security sentry. He was also required to watch for signals sent by patrols along the border areas. If visibility was good, he was posted in a watch tower. This detail was maintained 24 hours a day; each relief was on guard four hours.
- h. Dizhurnyy Zastavy (zastava dispatch orderly or charge of quarters) - The duty of the orderly was to dispatch patrols to the border, to check on internal order and security in the zastava area, and to receive all signals, especially telephonic, from the border and from the areas across the border. He was on duty 12 hours. Source saw orderlies on duty every day, but he never served as one.

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1. Chasovoy Granitsy (border sentry) - This was a patrol of two, rarely three, border guards. Its duty was to guard a specific borderline sector which was usually not longer than two kilometers; the exact length depended on the terrain covered. The extremities of the sector were to be strictly defined, and the patrol walked from one end to the other, checking the plowed strip and the technical warning devices.³ Such patrols were on duty every night and even operated in the daytime if visibility was poor. They were increased if a zastava CO or a komendatura expected to receive a message or reply from Iranian authorities at a certain border point. Source was often on such duty. He stated that, although according to the manual the individual members of the patrols were to walk separately and not converse, they were often together. The duty was about eight hours.
- j. Pogranichnyy Konvoy (border escort) - The composition of a border escort depended on the number of individuals that were to be escorted, but it always had at least two soldiers. Its mission was to escort detained border violators from its own zastava to a zastava situated closer to the komendatura or to the komendatura itself if the latter was located close to the zastava. After the escort delivered its prisoner, it had to return directly to its home unit. Source saw an escort in operation twice.
- k. Pogranichnaya Pochta (border mail detail) - This detail was composed of two men whose duty was to carry and deliver secret communications from their zastava to a neighboring one. Usually this detail was given personal mail which it had to dispatch through postal channels. It was also required to return directly to its home zastava after accomplishing its mission. One such detail was sent out two or three times each month. Source saw it on two occasions but was never detailed to it.

Patrol of Inter-Zastava Boundaries

19. The line where two zastava areas met was called a piket. The COs of both zastavas would make a mutual arrangement whereby they would take turns supplying personnel for patrols along their common boundary.

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1. Comment: In Border Guard parlance the term naryad does not mean detail as it does in the Soviet Army but, rather, personnel on patrol.
2. Comment: The KSP is commonly known as the "plowed strip." It is plowed over two or three times a month or more often if the weather affects it in any way.
3. Description of such devices.

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