

353

**INFORMATION REPORT    INFORMATION REPORT**  
**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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**S-E-C-R-E-T**

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**INFORMATION REPORT    INFORMATION REPORT**

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REPORT NO. [redacted] 50X1

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 15 Feb. 1955

SUBJECT 1. Tashkent Infantry Officer-Candidate School

NO. OF PAGES 9

2. Other Military Training Courses in the Vicinity of Tashkent

REFERENCES:

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Tashkent Infantry Officers' Candidate School

History and Subordination

1. The Tashkent Infantry Officers' Candidate School was organized 12 July 1918. In 1947-1948 the commandant was Gen. Maj. Smekhotvorov (fnu), who was succeeded by an infantry colonel Sivokon' (fnu). Sivokon' was still commandant [redacted] in November 1950. This school was directly subordinate to the Turkestan Military District as well as to an unknown officers' candidate school directorate in Moscow.

Courses of Instruction

[redacted] there was a two-year course and a three-year course; [redacted] Candidates who had not completed high school, i.e., less than ten classes, spent three years at the Tashkent OCS. Those who had completed high school or a higher institution, took the two-year course.

Prerequisites for Admission

3. [redacted] any male civilian Soviet citizen at least 18 years of age could apply for the school, provided he had completed at least eight classes of schooling.

[redacted] the rayon voyenkomat in Kalininskoye (N 42-50, E 73-52) [redacted]

[redacted] a quota existed for this school. All youths were encouraged to make application for the Tashkent OCS when registering at the voyenkomat.

[redacted] and was required to obtain a transcript of his school record, a character report from his place of employment, a birth certificate or personal identity document (passport), and three photographs.

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

- 50X1 [redacted] required to submit a personal biography in his own hand-writing. A physical examination was given [redacted] at the voyenkomat. 50X1
- 50X1 4. After completing [redacted] processing, the voyenkomat sent [redacted] 50X1 other applicants, together with their documents, to the Tashkent OCS. About 250 other candidates arrived at the OCS at the same time and were broken down into groups and billeted. All were given a very complete physical examination and, following this, they took a seven to eight-class-level examination in academic subjects. This examination consisted of the Russian language and literature, algebra, geometry, Russian geography, and history. All the candidates then appeared before a loyalty board before final acceptance. This board consisted of the school's MVD representative (osobnyak), the school's commandant, the chief of the Training Section, and other staff officers of the school. Following this, 120 of the 250 candidates were accepted as students. Civilians who were not accepted, returned to their respective voyenkomats.
5. In addition to civilian candidates, military personnel also made application to attend the school. Application was open to all military personnel, regardless of branch of service, provided they were under 21 years of age and had completed seven classes of schooling. These candidates underwent a rigid screening in their units prior to reporting to the school for possible acceptance. Military personnel made application to the school through channels after completing one year of conscripted service. [redacted] 10 per cent of the student body consisted of personnel from the military services. When they were accepted, they lost any rank they had held in their previous units. Military personnel who were not accepted were returned to their units.

#### Organization and Enrollment

- 50X1 6. The yearly average of students in the school was between 450 and 500. They were divided into two student-training battalions, the 1st and 2nd. Each battalion had two student companies and each company had four platoons which totalled 110 men. [redacted]
- 50X1 [redacted]
- 50X1 [redacted] The 1st Student Bn. had begun the last year of training and was to graduate in fall 1948. The entire 1st Student Bn. was to graduate in fall 1949; therefore, at least one company, and occasionally a battalion of two companies, was graduated each year.

#### Classes

7. Each company had a three-year cycle. Those students who had completed at least 10 classes of schooling, and who were required to undergo only a two-year course of instruction, arrived each fall and were integrated into any company which was beginning its second year of training. These students constituted 5 per cent or less of the student body.
8. There were three classes at the school:
- Beginners - first-year students - Those with less than eight classes of schooling.
  - Junior Class - second-year students - Graduates of the beginner's class plus students with at least ten classes of schooling.
  - Senior Class - third-year students - Candidates in their last year of training.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

9. The three-year students spent their first year almost entirely on academic subjects. The purpose of this was to bring them up to a level of ten years of schooling. The following subjects were taught: Russian language and literature, mathematics, physics, chemistry, foreign languages (English or German), sociology, and Russian history. This training was the responsibility of the General Education Department (Obshcheobrazovatel'nyy Tsikl) whose instructors were both military and civilian personnel. There was, however, some military training of a very basic nature given to students during the period they were engaged in academic studies. In April of each year an examination in academic studies was given to the beginner's class. This terminated their academic schooling. The students then prepared for summer camp where the training was entirely military with the exception of foreign language studies.

#### Summer Camp

10. Summer camp was held each year from about 5 May until 1 October for the entire student body. Each student company conducted training separately during this period with the level of training dependent on the class the student was in. [redacted] the summer camp was held in Chirohik (N 41-30, E 09-35) and was known as the "Stalin Camp". It consisted of several clay and mud buildings each of which was capable of housing a company; however, there were barely enough buildings in this camp to house the two student battalions, the school training staff, and services.
11. Whenever the school moved out to the field for summer camp, everyone went with the exception of the civilian instructors who took their summer vacations and one platoon of students which remained in the school area to carry out guard duty. This platoon was replaced every 15 days and rotated to the summer camp area so that it missed as little training as possible. In 1948, the school did not finish the summer training period in Chirohik because the entire student body was called out to help with the harvest. Following the harvest, the students all went home on 25-day leaves. [redacted]
12. All officer candidates of the junior class only, underwent practical training each year with a regular army unit just before the end of the summer training period and prior to going on annual leave.

#### Training Section

13. The Training Section was responsible for the instruction of the Tashkent OCS students in most military subjects. It had several sub-sections which were known as departments. The main departments were:
- Tactical Department - Consisted of a lieutenant colonel who was the senior instructor and five assistant instructors, none lower in rank than captain. The officers were all infantrymen.
  - Gunnery Department - Consisted of one major who was the senior instructor and four assistant instructors not lower in rank than captain. These officers were infantrymen.
  - General Education Department - Consisted of one captain, two lieutenants, and ten civilian teachers. The officers wore infantry shoulderboards [redacted]
- The three sub-sections above, plus the Social-Economic Training Department of the political section, were the largest and considered the most important departments.
14. In addition to the main departments, there were several less important training groups in the training section which handled instruction in various other military subjects as follows:

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

- a. Topography Subjects - The instructors consisted of one lieutenant colonel (senior instructor) and one captain (assistant). Officers were from the military topographic branch of the army.
- b. Signal Subjects - The senior instructor was a lieutenant colonel. In addition, the Signal Platoon which serviced the school was utilized for signal instruction. The CO of the Signal Platoon was also an assistant instructor to the lieutenant colonel; both officers were from the signal branch.
- c. Chemical Subjects - One lieutenant colonel taught these subjects and was from the chemical branch.
- d. Engineer Subjects - The senior instructor was a lieutenant colonel and his assistant was a major. A squad of men from the Housekeeping Platoon assisted in the engineer training. The two officers were from the engineer branch.
- e. Artillery Subjects - The senior instructor was a lieutenant colonel and the assistant instructor was a captain. The captain was also CO of a service "company" that maintained the mortar and artillery pieces used for instructional purposes.<sup>2</sup> The officers were from the armored branch.
- f. Armored Subjects - The senior instructor was a major and the assistant instructor was a senior lieutenant. The senior lieutenant was also CO of a tank-SP "company".<sup>3</sup> There was also a master sergeant reenlisted in the company who instructed in nomenclature and general characteristics of armor. The officers were from the armored branch.
- g. Physical Training - The senior instructor was a major; his assistant was a senior lieutenant. Both were from the infantry branch.

#### Faculty and Services

15. The school had a cadre of about 100 officers, about 100-120 EM, and about 10 civilian women. This number included all personnel at the school, such as, rear services, instructors, and school administration personnel. Source could not break down the rear services headed by the deputy CO for Technical-Material Services and could not remember the subordination of the Secret Section, the band, or the Medical Services.
16. The Battalion Staff consisted of a lieutenant colonel as CO, a major as deputy CO for Political Affairs, and a lieutenant as the Secretary of the Komsomol Bureau.
17. Each company headquarters consisted of a CO, either a captain or a major, and four platoon leaders of lieutenant or senior lieutenant grade. All the officers were infantrymen.
18. The Political Section was headed by a lieutenant colonel. Its most important department was the Social-Economic Training Department which had a lieutenant colonel as senior instructor and five assistant instructors, none with a rank lower than captain. This department was responsible for the major portion of the political training of the Tashkent OCS students. The remaining sections under the Chief of the Political Section supported the Social and Economic Training Department and also provided instructors for political training of the school cadre. All officers in the section were from the infantry branch.

#### Daily Training Program

19. The average training day was as follows: Reveille at 0500 hours, followed by 20 minutes of physical training, 15 minutes for personal toilet, 30 minutes for breakfast, and 10 minutes in preparation for training. The actual training started at 0800 hours and was given eight hours daily six days a week. Usually, there were six hours of training followed by dinner, then two more hours of training. Following classroom training, there was a one-hour rest period, 1½ hours of individual study, and

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SECRET

-5-

1½ hours of organized athletics. Supper was at 2100 hours and recall and taps at 2300 hours.

20. Basic subjects were the responsibility of the company officers in the student companies. These subjects included close-order drill, guard duties, some instruction on basic Soviet infantry weapons, and basic field and service manuals. The greatest portion of the training was the responsibility of the training departments and groups outlined on page 9. 50X1
21. Students studied the 45 mm and the 57 mm AT guns, the SU-76, the T-34 tank, the 120 mm, the 160 mm, the 82 mm mortars, the 122 mm field guns and howitzers, the Goryunov HMG, the 7.62 mm LMGs (both the DPM and DP types), the 7.62 mm M1946 company MG, the PPSH SMG, the TT pistol, the Nagant revolver, and other new Soviet infantry weapons.<sup>4</sup>
22. All secret documents were available to the students from the Secret Documents Section of the school. The usual procedure was for one of the company officers or a chosen student to compile a list of secret material that the students required for their studies and to make one trip for all the material.

#### Final Examinations

23. At the end of the last year of study, all students were required to pass a series of examinations administered by an examining commission. The examinations were conducted from about 25 August until 22 September. Students were required to take both oral and written examinations. Included in the examinations were all military subjects given at the school. The examining commission came from Moscow and was headed by a lieutenant-general. Students were tested on their ability to solve field situations, to make up lesson plans, to fire given weapons, and were also tested on their physical ability and their political knowledge, etc. The number of failures was negligible and less than 2 per cent of the students were "washed out" during the three years. 50X1

#### Graduation

24. At graduation, students received the rank of lieutenant.<sup>5</sup> Graduating classes were broken down into three categories. 50X1  
50X1 [redacted] about 35 were in the first category which was classified as outstanding. Members of this group could choose their place of assignment and had the privilege of entering an academy after one year of service with troops or in later years. The students of the first category also received a reward of 100 rubles at graduation. The second category consisted of average students. About 60 students in this category received assignments without regard to their personal desires. The third category consisted of the below-average students who were assigned in the same manner as the students of the second category.

#### Miscellaneous

25. At graduation, all graduates received 1,200 rubles, a graduation certificate, and an officer's personal-identification document. They were also given a free issue of breeches, a single-breasted blouse, a double-breasted overcoat, calfskin jackboots, two sets of underwear, one blanket, two sheets, and a pillow case.
- a. Identification
26. Students used the service book as their basic identification, as did Soviet EM in regular units. At graduation, they turned in this book and received the Officer and Reenlistee Identification Book (Udostovereniye Lichnosti).
- b. Rank and Pay
27. Students had no rank but were known as kursanty. In the first year of

SECRET

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-6-

training, they received 30 rubles a month. Students in the second year received 75 rubles a month and students in the third year received 100 rubles a month. All company officers in the companies were from the Soviet Army. The remaining command positions, such as, first sergeant, assistant platoon leader, and squad leader, were held in an acting capacity by the students themselves. The student leaders were not regularly rotated but the practice was to keep the best-qualified in these positions. These student leaders received extra pay. An acting squad leader received an additional 35 rubles, an acting assistant platoon leader received an additional 50 rubles, and an acting first sergeant received an additional 175 rubles.

#### c. Passes and Leaves

28. A total of 30 percent of the students was allowed to go out on pass each Saturday until 0200 hours and on Sundays until midnight, provided that they had no demerits and were current in their studies. Civilians could visit the school only if they obtained special passes.
29. The school term for the first-year students began in late September, for second-year students about 1 October, and for the senior year students about 1 November. Leaves were given at the end of each school year. The first and second-year students received 25 days leave including travel to insure that all students would be present at the start of the new training year. Graduating students, who had received their assignments to stations outside the continental limits of the USSR, received 30-day leaves which included travel time. This was to insure that the newly-commissioned officers would join their units before the start of the training year about 1 December. Other graduates assigned to duty in the USSR, received leaves of up to 45 days.

#### Quality of Training

30. [redacted] the training program at the school was excellent. However, [redacted] very little training on other arms, such as, artillery, armor, air force, etc. The training received on other arms was very basic and negligible. There was little or no ballistics instruction on infantry or any other weapons and, in general, there was too much theory and too little practical training. There was no training on instruction methods and too much time lost on political training. Map reading was rather rudimentary [redacted]

50X1  
50X1

[redacted] very little of the training received was later put into practice or given to troops in subsequent assignments; however, [redacted] the physical instruction was excellent.

31. [redacted] regiment in Austria, there were officers from at least eight different infantry officer-candidate schools. [redacted] the training and organization of other schools was more or less the same as that at the Tashkent OCS, with the exception of the courses shown in the other section of this report.<sup>6</sup>

#### OTHER MILITARY TRAINING COURSES

##### Reserve Officers' Course

32. In 1948 or 1949, [redacted] a group of about 300 reserve officers arrived for summer training. [redacted] these officers were from the Tashkent area only. They remained in the vicinity of the summer camp area for about a month and one-half and conducted their own training. This group used the same mess hall as [redacted] officer-candidate students; however, the

50X1

SECRET

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SECRET

-7-

50X1 two ate in separate shifts [redacted]  
 50X1 [redacted] the officers  
 wore various shoulderboards and that their ranks ranged from  
 50X1 lieutenant to major. [redacted] this group looked very  
 "green and seedy". They had been given enlisted men's uniforms  
 50X1 to wear for their training and [redacted]  
 their "recruit-like" appearance. [redacted] the training 50X1  
 given to this group was organized by the Turkestan Military District.

#### Advanced Training Course For Officers

33. At the time that the Tashkent OCS student body was in the summer  
 camp in 1949, an officers' advanced training course (kurs usover-  
 shenstvovaniya ofitserского sostava) was organized at the vacated  
 OCS caserne for officers on active duty from the Turkestan Military  
 District. There were about 200 officers in this group ranging from  
 junior lieutenant to lieutenant colonel and all were from different  
 branches of the Soviet Army. The course lasted seven or eight  
 50X1 months and [redacted] officers returned to their units  
 on completion of the course.

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#### Infantry Lieutenant Courses For Sergeants

34. In fall 1949, when the advanced training course for officers had  
 ended, there was an "infantry lieutenant's course" (kurs leytenant-  
 pekhoty). This was a one-year course for sergeants on active duty.  
 Two companies of 110 sergeants each were organized. All the ser-  
 50X1 geants had come from infantry, mechanized, and artillery units in  
 the Turkestan Military District only. Two NCOs of the Tashkent OCS  
 were accepted in this course. The sergeant-students received the  
 rank of lieutenant on the successful completion of the course.

#### Direct Commissioning of EM After Examination

35. It was possible for EM to receive commissions without finishing  
 an officers' school course. Any EM who had completed two years  
 of service and had 10 classes of schooling could receive the rank  
 of junior lieutenant in the reserves by successfully passing a  
 state exam (eksternom). [redacted] took 50X1  
 the examination and received a reserve commission while in the  
 50X1 service. [redacted] they were later demobilized and were  
 about to be recalled to active duty as officers in 1953. [redacted] 50X1  
 50X1 [redacted] In [redacted] regiment in Austria,  
 only one man had received a reserve commission in this manner. This  
 man was Sgt. Andreyev (fnu) of the regiment dispensary. This NCO  
 had completed a medical tekhnikum before he was drafted and often  
 acted as feldsher in the dispensary. He received an unknown-type  
 of reserve commission in February 1954. [redacted] this 50X1  
 sergeant had tried to be called to active duty with his reserve rank.

#### Military Training Course for Civilian Students

36. [redacted] in summer camp [redacted] there was a group of 300-400 50X1  
 students taking summer training about 800 m. away from the encamp-  
 50X1 ment. These students came from all the civilian technical schools  
 in Tashkent and all were about 20 years old. [redacted] 50X1  
 officer-candidates acted as instructors and commanders for the  
 group. In this manner the officer-candidates [redacted] received 50X1  
 practical training in leadership while they, in turn, gave military  
 training to the school students. The officer-candidates of the

SECRET



SECRET

-8-

[Redacted]

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junior class acted as company COs, platoon leaders, and squad leaders, while the officer candidates of the senior class acted as instructors

[Redacted] these students were undergoing some type of military training while they attended their respective technical schools because all of them were well-briefed in military subjects, in spite of the fact that none of them had ever served on active duty. The group of school students remained in the summer camp for 1½ months.

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1. [Redacted]

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2. [Redacted] Comment:

The term, "company" was in name only and actually had only about a squad of EM.

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3. [Redacted] Comment:

This was also a company in name only and merely maintained sufficient equipment for instructional purposes.

50X1

4. [Redacted]

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5. [Redacted] Comment:

It was inadvertently reported [Redacted] that graduates of this course were commissioned as junior lieutenants instead of lieutenants.

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6. [Redacted]

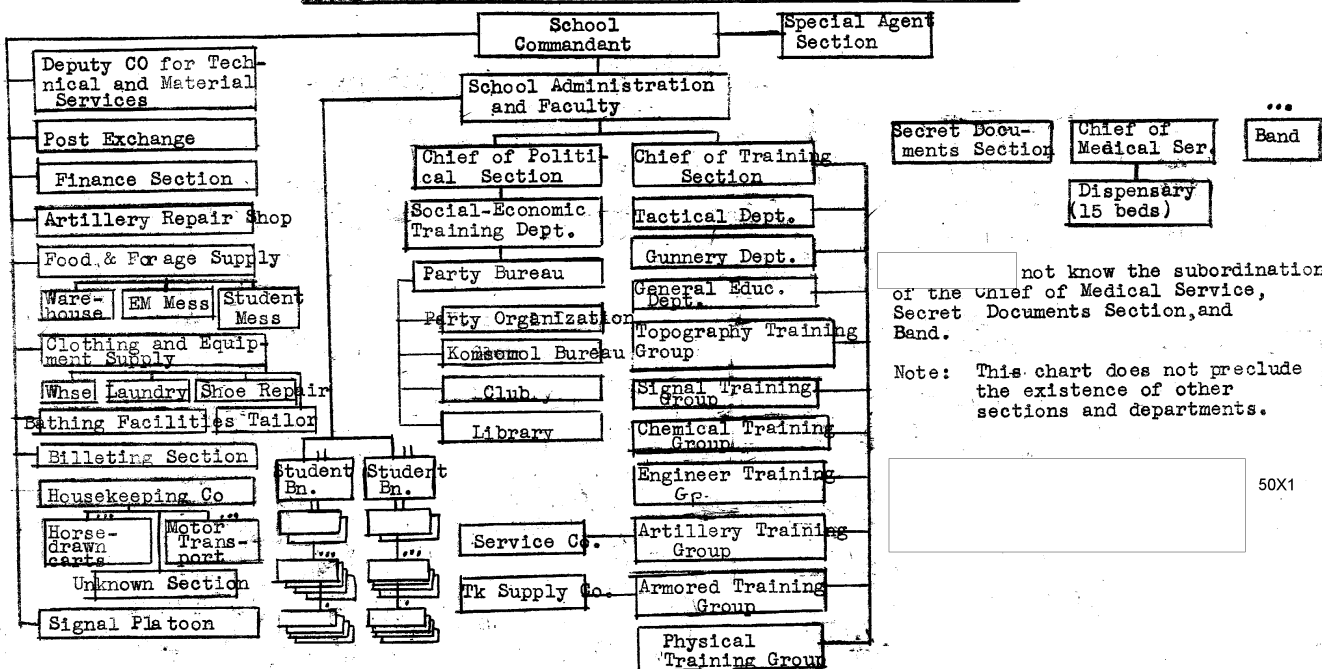
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Estimated Organization of the Tashkent Inf OCS, Tashkent, USSR

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SECRET  
-9-



not know the subordination of the Chief of Medical Service, Secret Documents Section, and Band.

Note: This chart does not preclude the existence of other sections and departments.

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