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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

(FOUO 29/79)

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MILITARY ENGINEERING SCHOOLS DESCRIBED FOR YOUNG READERS

Moscow PROFESSIYA--SAPER (Profession--Combat Engineer) in Russian 1978 signed to press 29 Sep 77 pp 1, 2, 81-104

[Annotation, Table of Contents, Author Biographical Information, selected chapters, and Conclusion from book by Lt Gen Engr Trps B. V. Zatytkin, Izdatel'stvo DOSAAF SSSR, 40,000 copies, 222 pages]

[Text] Annotation

The author describes, for the lay reader, the history of the origin, development, and application of engineer troops in combat and their role in the Soviet Armed Forces.

The book is intended for the mass reader, and especially for young people.

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Biographical Information on Author

Lieutenant General of Engineer Troops Boris Vasil'yevich Zatytkin is one of those regular commanders of our armed forces who had the luck to begin military service back in the 1930's, to take an active part in the Great Patriotic War, and to pass through all of the stages of a military

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career--from cadet to a high-ranking troop commander. His biography is typical of a Soviet commander and a son of the laboring people.

First there was secondary school, the Leningrad (presently Kaliningrad) Military Engineering School imeni A. A. Zhdanov.

The fronts in which he served included the Southwestern, 3d Ukrainian, and 3d Belorussian. He participated in crossings of the Northern Donets, the Dniepr, the Ingol, the Southern Bug, the Dniestr, and the Neman. He experienced the joy of victory and the bitterness of losing comrades in arms. The war had not been easy for him.

Then came the Military Engineering Academy imeni V. V. Kuybyshev, and once again the troops, as commander of the Tyumen' Military Engineering School. Presently Lieutenant General of Engineer Troops B. V. Zatytkin is deputy chief of the engineer troops of the USSR Ministry of Defense.

No matter where he has served, he invariably combines his principal activity with active participation in public life: He has served many times as city soviet deputy, party gorkom member, delegate to the 22nd and 23d CPSU congresses, and permanent member of the editorial board of the Ministry of Defense journal *TEKHNIKA I VOORUZHENIYE*.

B. V. Zatytkin's considerable, diverse experience and his good knowledge of modern special equipment, the life of the troops, and military training institutions have allowed this book's author to penetrate deeply into the essence of the matter, to explain the multifaceted activity of the engineer troops, their history and organization, and the unique features of the work of combat engineers, and to describe modern engineering equipment and the specialties a combat engineer may acquire.

The book is intended primarily for young people of preconscrip and conscrip ages.

The Forges of Engineering Personnel

Our country has many military training institutions that are more than a quarter of a millenium old. One of them is the Kaliningrad Higher Engineering Order of Lenin Red Banner School imeni A. A. Zhdanov. The same one, as we know, that began its history in the early 18th century and in which Mikhail Iilariionovich Kutuzov studied.

The great Russian troop commander was not the only prominent official of prerevolutionary Russia who received his education in this school. Its graduates in different years included the greatest military engineer of his time, fortification scholar A. Z. Telyakovskiy, E. I. Totleben and R. I. Kondratenko whom we have already mentioned, electric lamp inventor M. I. Yablochkov, founder of the Russian school of physiology N. M. Sechenov, writers F. M. Dostoyevskiy, and D. V. Grigorovich, and composers Ts. A. Kyui and N. Ya. Myaskovskiy.

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Following the victory of Great October the school was used as the base for organizing an engineering school training commanders for the Red Army; in July 1918 it was renamed the Petrograd Military Engineering Tekhnikum, and in June 1920 it was reorganized as the Petrograd Military Engineering School No 1.

During the civil war the students often had to interrupt their training and go to the front to defend their young country. The personnel participated in the defeat of Yudenich's White Guards bands, the White Finns, and Wrangel's troops, and in suppression of the Kronstadt mutiny. More than 20 cadets and commanders were awarded orders of the Red Banner for their acts of heroism in battles against the White Guards and interventionists, and the Petrograd Military Engineering School earned the Honorary Revolutionary Red Banner of the RSFSR All-Russian Central Executive Committee.

A new brilliant page was added to the school's battle chronicle in the Great Patriotic War. More than 10,000 of its graduates participated in battles against fascist Germany, and 39 of them were awarded the honorary Hero of the Soviet Union title. The memory of Lieutenant General of Engineer Troops Dmitriy Mikhaylovich Karbyshev, a graduate of the school and a faithful son of the Soviet people who was devoted to the Communist Party and his great motherland to the end and who died a hero in the fascist camp at Mauthausen, is especially precious to the school's cadets and officers.

In the very heat of the Great Patriotic War, on 31 March 1943, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet awarded the school the Order of Lenin for its efforts in training officers for the engineer troops.

The school collective holds its glorious combat traditions sacred, and it is multiplying them. Intense work having the goal of educating highly skilled military engineers and engineer troop subunit commanders goes on every day at the training fields and driving ranges, and in the laboratories and classrooms. All of the conditions necessary for this have been created.

The school possesses excellently equipped auditoriums, motor pools, laboratories, training fields, and driving ranges. Its training material base is being constantly improved with the active participation of the school's inventors and efficiency experts--teachers, scientists, and cadets.

In just the last few years the school has created a computer center, teacher training classrooms, and programmed learning classrooms, and its laboratories are outfitted with new, up-to-date equipment permitting the students not only to study today's engineer armament but also conduct serious scientific research.

Let us visit, for example, the auditorium designated for study of the electric equipment of engineering vehicles. It contains unique stands that can be used to visually demonstrate the work of electric units and machine units in the vehicles to the cadets; they help the students to learn how to

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detect and correct faults quickly and perform adjustments. The school's innovators have also outfitted an engineer armament laboratory. In it, the students are afforded a possibility for measuring the characteristics of the working parts of operating models of engineering equipment, and then analyzing them with the help of analog and digital computers.

Now let us look into another classroom--programmed learning. It is used to test cadets as required by the lesson plan, and for self-training. In this classroom, an instructor could question 30 persons and score their knowledge in 15 minutes. During independent work the apparatus is set in "self-training" mode, and the cadets check their own level of assimilation of the theoretical material. The school also possesses laboratories specializing in hydraulic drives, engineering vehicle operation and repair, fuel and lubricants, and electrical engineering resources. The vehicle demonstration halls contain cut-away and operating models of engineering equipment, and its units and machine units.

The cadets develop the practical habits of vehicle driving during lessons at two driving ranges and in special classrooms outfitted with trainers. The future officers develop their ability to train and indoctrinate subordinates, control subunits in battle, and competently organize the operation and repair of engineering vehicles while serving as apprentices in the troops and participating in exercises.

The cadets also participate actively in scientific work: There are 45 military-scientific society circles meeting at the school. Evidence of the high level of the student projects can be found in the fact that they have earned many top prizes at republic and interrepublic scientific-technical conferences of institutions of higher education.

The school traditionally maintains close contact with many enterprises and VUZ's of the city, oblast, and country. With many of the plants it has signed contracts for creative cooperation in joint scientific research and in political and popular cultural functions.

The command and the political division devote a great deal of attention to the life of the cadets. All of the well-outfitted facilities--Lenin rooms, reading rooms, a rich library, a club, the school museum, the cadet coffee house--offer interesting diversions for future officers in their leisure time.

Popular sports are organized well also. Almost every cadet is a ranked sportsman. Military district and armed forces champions also work out in the school's athletic sections. They include many USSR masters and candidates of sports. For its successes in popular sports, the school has earned many prizes of the USSR Minister of Defense, and it has been awarded the Minister of Defense Cup.

The course of instruction in the school is 5 years long. Its graduates are awarded the rank of engineer-lieutenant and issued an all-union diploma of an engineer-mechanic or another specialist.

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Engineer troop officers--commanders with a higher education--are trained by the Tyumen' and Kamenets-Podol'skiy command schools.

The history of the Tyumen' Higher Military Engineering Command School imeni Marshal of Engineer Troops A. I. Proshlyakov begins in August 1940. Formed in the Baltic republics (it was initially an infantry school), it took a direct part in defense of the city of Tallin when the Great Patriotic War broke out. The school's officers and cadets displayed high courage, heroism, and valor in the very first battles. It was then that military-engineering affairs instructor Captain A. Yakushin and Cadet V. Khokhlov committed their immortal act of heroism. At a critical moment, when fascist tanks were about to penetrate our defenses, they blew up a bridge at the sacrifice of their lives. The enemy was held back.

No matter how difficult the situation was for us in the first months of the war, the military training institutions still had to perform their principal mission of training command personnel. In July 1941 the school was evacuated first to Altay and then to Tyumen'. It trained many officers during the war. The front was the testing ground of the training quality. School graduates held the honor and merit of a Soviet Army commander high in savage battles, displaying outstanding organizational capabilities, valor, and bravery. Hundreds of young commanders earned high government awards, and four of them became heroes of the Soviet Union.

Following the war, the school was reorganized as a military engineering school, and since 1968 it has been a higher military engineering command school. Its course of instruction was lengthened to 4 years. Today the Tyumen' school is a model training complex possessing everything necessary with which to successfully prepare highly skilled specialists for the engineer troops. Its fabulously outfitted training fields and camps, classrooms, laboratories, driving ranges, and firing ranges make it possible to conduct lessons that satisfy today's scientific, technical, and educational requirements. The school is staffed by experienced instructors and commanders. Practical experience confirms the high quality of the training: The school's graduates are serving successfully in the troops, and many of them have earned government awards in peacetime for outstanding grades in combat and political training, successful assimilation of new, complex combat equipment, and exemplary fulfillment of command assignments.

All of the necessary personal conditions have been created as well. The cadets live in bright, spacious, and comfortable communal residences. The school dining hall has held first place in the district for many years. An excellently furnished club and a library containing a rich collection are at the service of the cadets.

Sports are very popular among the Tyumen' school cadets. It has now become a tradition for the school's athletic teams to earn prizewinning places not only in oblast and district competitions but also in all-army competitions in skiing, weight-lifting, wrestling, and other forms of sports. It is no

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accident that this school has nurtured many USSR masters and candidates of sports. This is in many ways the product of the school's good athletic base. There is an excellent gymnasium, a stadium, a tennis court, basketball and volleyball courts, a handball court, gymnastic and game complexes, and a shooting gallery.

The cadets participate actively in the city's and oblast's public life. The school has assumed sponsorship of 20 grade schools, four vocational-technical schools, and two boarding schools. In the sponsored schools, the cadets lead technical, shooting, and other circles, manage the work of clubs of courage and Friends of the Soviet Army clubs, and they help to organize preconscription training. Annual agitprop ski tours by cadet teams to all the rayons of Tyumenskaya Oblast have become a tradition. Cadet-agitators and amateur art collectives make appearances before the laborers of Siberian villages and the young people of enterprises and schools.

The life of the collective is complete, and every day is filled with interesting lessons and persistent training. The cadets assimilate the program of a higher institution of education, they master complex engineering equipment, and they acquire numerous useful skills that may be acquired in far from all civilian VUZ's.

Their free time is filled with lessons in various circles and sections, evening youth discussions on particular topics, meetings with peers from civilian training institutions and enterprises, amateur concerts, movies, and tours to historic places. To sum up, each person can find a way to spend his leisure time that is most interesting to him. During his school career the cadet not only obtains the knowledge and skills needed by a future commander but also acquires experience in public political activity, broadens his general education, and raises his cultural level.

School graduates are awarded the rank of lieutenant and issued a diploma (all-union) of an engineering armament vehicle operating engineer.

The same diploma is also issued to graduates of the Kamenets-Podol'skiy Higher Military Engineering Command School imeni Marshal of Engineering Troops V. K. Kharchenko. This is the "youngest" military training institution of the engineer troops, established in the postwar years.

As we know, youth does have its advantages: Young people have the possibility for learning from older people. Unfortunately young people rarely take advantage of this. When it comes to organizing new institutions, including training institutions, however, we always try to consider the existing experience, to absorb everything positive, and to avoid errors. This pertains to the Kamenets-Podol'skiy school as well: Its training material base was created on the basis of the latest scientific achievements, with a consideration for today's requirements. As is happening in other VUZ's, this base is undergoing continuous development and improvement. The school is staffed

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by highly skilled instructors and commanders, and it has everything it needs to successfully organize training and indoctrination. Outstanding conditions have also been created for the personal life of the cadets, and to satisfy their cultural demands. It would not make any sense to explain this in any greater detail--I would simply be repeating myself.

Now let us turn to one more school or, to put it more accurately, not so much a school as a very important aspect of an officer's work, which needs to be discussed specially.

In addition to commanders, engineers, and technicians, all branches of troops of the Soviet Armed Forces including the engineer troops have yet another category of officers--political workers.

The political worker is, first of all, an active warrior of the Communist Party, a disciple of its ideas in the armed forces, and a dependable support to the commander in personnel training and indoctrination. By nature of his position he is called upon to be a fervent propagandist and a competent educator and organizer, capable of attracting and leading the personnel by his word and deed.

In the most difficult days of our socialist fatherland's history, in the most serious and savage engagements, commissars and political workers were invariably in the forefront, serving as models of devotion to the motherland, party, and people. With pistol or automatic rifle in hand, inciting the soldiers with burning patriotic words, they were the first to rise to the attack. In those days when the fascist hoards were standing at the approaches to our capital, news of the immortal act of heroism committed by 28 Panfilov heroes commanded by Political Commissar P. Klochkov was spread around the world. Their words were an inspiration to all of our people, to each soldier: "Great is Russia, but there is nowhere to retreat: Moscow is behind us!"

Today's army and navy political workers embody the best traits of the legendary commissars, whose traditions they carefully preserve and multiply. Having a deep knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory, political workers do a great deal of fruitful work aimed at nurturing the soldiers in the spirit of unshakable faithfulness to the ideals of our party, Soviet patriotism and internationalism, and the readiness to protect the Soviet fatherland. They can always be found where things are tough, where combat proficiency is being forged, where maximum effort is required to complete the command's assignments.

To be a political worker in the Soviet Armed Forces is a very high honor. But it also carries many responsibilities. In order to gain a position of authority and respect in the military collective, and in order to organize political indoctrination objectively, with expertise, the political worker must know and know how to do a very great deal.

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It stands to reason that the political worker must first have a thorough theoretical knowledge of Marxist-Leninist philosophy, pedagogics, and psychology, and that he must have a clear understanding of the way party-political work is organized in the army. But this is not enough.

The political worker is a deputy commander. He must be ready to assume command whenever the time requires. And this means that as with all officers, he must have a deep knowledge of the theory and practice of military affairs, and of the fundamentals of organizing a modern battle. And, naturally, he must be well familiar with the organic equipment of his subunit or unit, and with the rules of its operation and combat use. This has become especially important in modern conditions.

To be eloquent, to know how to set fire to peoples' hearts, how to inspire them and, equally so, to know how to approach the individual and encourage frank discussion are all very good and much-needed qualities. Needed, to put it precisely, not only by the political worker (though he needs them the most) but also all officers. However, no agitation would be truly effective unless the agitator is able to not only encourage people to act but also demonstrate how it is best to act. Personal example has especially great meaning in military affairs. "Do as I do!"--this oldest principle of military training has not lost its significance today. This is why every officer whose principal specialty is party-political work must not only display competency in technical training and a knowledge of the materiel but also be able to handle his subunit's combat equipment and armament and possess a classed specialist's qualifications.

Considering these requirements, political workers are trained for the armed forces today predominantly in specialized military training institutions operating with programs accounting for the specific features of the work of an officer in a particular branch of troops. The Donetsk Higher Military-Political School of Engineering Troops and Signal Troops is one such VUZ in particular. Its course of instruction is also 4 years long. I should note that only members (candidates) of the CPSU and Komsomol members are accepted as applicants to this school (as is true with other military-political VUZ's).

During their training, the cadets deeply study Marxist-Leninist philosophy, pedagogics, psychology, the fundamentals of party-political work in the army, and other disciplines, which the regular propagandist and party-political worker must know to perfection.

And at the same time they assimilate, no less seriously and comprehensively, the nuts and bolts of military affairs and of the branch of troops in which they are to serve, concretely in relation to the specialization they select. The future political workers study the equipment, acquaint themselves with the rules of its operation, and assimilate the techniques and methods of driving the vehicles and working with them. To put it more briefly, they acquire the sum total of the knowledge and skills needed by an officer-specialist.

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The school provides a higher military-political education. Its graduates are awarded the rank of lieutenant and issued an all-union diploma. Nor should we neglect to say something about a certain top military training institution which every person who has decided to become an officer and serve in the engineering troops dreams of attending. True, the path to this training institution is not easy and short. But after all, in both life and work it is very important to always look ahead, to know how to envision the future.

Moscow, Pokrovskiy Boulevard, 11. A stern multistory building with a gray granite foundation: This is the main building of the Order of Lenin Red Banner Military Engineering Academy imeni V. V. Kuybyshev, which will celebrate its 160th anniversary in 1979.

Its applicants are not youngsters: They are officers who have graduated from military schools, who have sufficient experience in troop service, and who have successfully passed competitive entrance examinations. It trains military engineers and commanders with top qualifications for the engineer troops.

The academy is the pride of the engineer troops. Many outstanding troop commanders I mentioned in my discussion of the Kaliningrad school later graduated from the academy. Among them is Hero of the Soviet Union, Doctor of Military Sciences, Professor, Lieutenant General D. M. Karbyshev, in memory of whom a memorial plaque was mounted on the academy building.

Dmitriy Mikhaylovich Karbyshev is famous throughout the world. The entire life and the most heroic death of this fearless and courageous person, this outstanding military scholar and engineer, this unbending communist are a model of service to the fatherland and the people. Young people starting out in the big world would do well to learn about Karbyshev's school career.

He entered the Military Engineering Academy in 1908 with the experience of the Russo-Japanese War behind his back and five battle orders on his chest. Knowledge was graded in those days by a 12-point system. Having taken 23 entrance examinations in 25 days, 28 year old Lieutenant D. M. Karbyshev earned 251.1 points--an average score of 10.92--and was one of the first applicants to be enrolled as a student in the academy.

His academic record was even more brilliant by the time of his graduation from the academy. His average score for his major courses, 26 of them, was 11.54, while his average for nine minor courses was 11.63. All projects Karbyshev completed during his training earned a score no less than 11.5 points, and for his plan for fortifying Vladivostok, which he drew up just prior to his graduation from the academy, he was awarded the "Prize imeni Lieutenant General R. I. Kondratenko and His Fellow Heroes, Officers of the Engineer Corps, Defenders of Port Arthur."

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The academy, Russia's first higher military engineering training institution, became the center of progressive Russian military engineering thought in the course of its development. Valuable, nontransient, progressive military and military-technical experience accumulated by many generations of military engineers was fully utilized in the creation of the army of the world's first workers and peasants state.

Following the Great October Socialist Revolution the overwhelming majority of the academy's instructors and students joined the victorious proletariat without reservations. And by as early as 1918 two graduating classes of engineers with combat experience under their belts who graduated from the short course in the academy were sent to the Red Army. Many of the academy's professors and instructors also fought at the fronts of the civil war.

In addition to performing their immediate functions of developing military engineering science and training highly skilled personnel for the army, in the years preceding the Great Patriotic War the academy's instructors, students, and graduates took an active part in many of the country's shock construction projects. And when war broke out the academy's graduates graced themselves with unfading glory, having multiplied the combat traditions of Russian military engineers many times over. Many of them became major troop commanders.

Today the Order of Lenin Red Banner Academy imeni V. V. Kuybyshev is the recognized center of scientific thought in the areas of military engineering and the military topographic service. It performs profound scientific research, trains young scientists for the regular army, and extensively encourages students to participate in scientific activity. All of the necessary conditions have been created for this.

The academy possesses a fabulous training material base, scientific research and testing laboratories, a computer center, training ranges and driving ranges, and the most up-to-date technical training resources. The departments and laboratories are headed by prominent scientists, by knowledgeable specialists in their areas. During their course of study at the academy, students not only widen and and deepen their military and engineering knowledge but also acquire the skills of scientific research.

To Those Entering School

In my long years of service, as with any regular soldier I have managed to hold many posts; in particular, for 9 years I was chief of one of the military engineering schools. By virtue of my work I also spend time in military training institutions today. Speaking honestly, every meeting with student collectives causes me agitation. I recall my own youth, and I recall my years of work in the school as commander and educator. I cannot help but thinking: How will life and service be for these young men in their spanking new uniforms, who still cannot enter the lecture hall with some degree of timidity?

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My graduates have long been mature individuals and experienced officers, and many of them occupy responsible posts. I still have ties with many of them. It is always pleasant to learn about the successes of a former student, and one always feels sad when one of them suffers misfortune. Why hide the fact? I also know some who never did fit in with the service. And as a rule the reason for the latter is that some time ago, in his youth, the individual did not determine his life's calling correctly. This is the topic I would like to discuss first.

If one is to work toward a cherished goal firmly and persistently and find a suitable career, it is very important to conclusively decide what one is to be early, while still a youngster. It is only on this condition that work will become a source of deep moral satisfaction, inspiration, and joy. And it is only under this condition that the individual would be able to be of maximum benefit to society. Selection of an occupation and a specialty is one of the most important steps in the life of each individual.

Sociological research was once conducted with the goal of revealing when and in response to what motives students developed the desire to enter military school. It turned out that this decision was made by one out of four (of those interviewed) back in primary school, and that one out of five decided on a military career in high school. More than a quarter of the students made their final decision to become officers while working in the national economy, and as large a group made their decision while serving in the army. It is indicative that those young people who developed the desire to become regular officers earlier usually enjoy the better academic success. Thus the academic performance of such students in one certain school was an average of 0.8 points higher than that of their comrades who had decided to become officers a few months prior to entering the VUZ.

Meanwhile it sometimes happens, though not often, that a person enrolls in military school with the attitude that it does not matter where you study, as long as you get an education. Sometimes relatives or acquaintances prod the individual into making such a decision, without understanding that if he is not predisposed to military service such advice is not any good.

I want to make sure that my young reader and his parents understand me correctly. I am not at all advising that the counsel of relatives and older people in general be ignored. On the contrary their knowledge and life experience are extremely necessary to the young person, but the last word must still belong to the individual who is going to have to work in the selected area. No one can decide this very complex and vitally important issue for him.

Where does a young person who has not served in the army and who does not even live in a military garrison get his ideas about work in the military? He gets some information by assimilating the preconscription training program; moreover he reads books, sees movies, and hears stories from friends in the military. It may also happen that he would begin to identify a person in some particular occupation or specialty that he likes with the occupation or

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specialty itself. As an example, consider that his beloved hero is a tank troop or seaman, a strong, willful individual, and a fabulous commander and an excellent friend. In his desire to imitate his beloved hero, he decides to enter the tank (naval, signal, and so on) school. In general, there is nothing bad about this. Many, and not just in their youth, measure up their lives and their acts with the lives and acts of people whom they choose as their ideals. Our Soviet reality gives birth to heroes worthy of imitation every day.

But it would be naive to assume that once you select the profession of your hero you will also acquire his qualities, intelligence, knowledge, courage, and will. Without a doubt the profession, especially the military profession, makes a certain impression on the individual's character, giving shape to it. But this happens only with the active participation of the individual himself. Moreover it is quite important for the individual to possess the necessary traits permitting him to master the given profession. This is why he must soberly evaluate his potentials before reaching a decision.

It can also happen this way: An individual in school or at work makes a decision, and his best friend, who is less independent, follows after him without any idea about what military service is or about the specialty which his friend had selected quite consciously. Encountering difficulties in army life and training, he begins to doubt the correctness of his chosen path, and it becomes difficult for him to force himself to observe strict military discipline. It would be nice if this lad were willful and capable of changing himself, and getting a hold of himself; then he would become interested in service, he would study well, he would be drawn into the social and political life of the collective, and he himself would not even notice that he now had a calling for his chosen profession. Were the reverse true, school would be impossible and service still worse. The individual would be dissatisfied with himself: In the best case he would manage to change his qualifications with time, and in the worst he may never determine his life's path.

We know of exceptionally gifted people whose professions have in a sense been predetermined from early childhood. But such people are a rarity. In general, a calling forms in response to many factors, the main one being the person's deep awareness of the importance of a particular line of work. And he who decides to become a regular soldier must deeply recognize the purpose of our armed forces and their highly important role in the struggle for the triumph of communism, for the security of our state, and for peace in the world. It is also very important to clearly understand that this honorable profession of the most valorous and courageous people of our society--army and navy officers--is a very responsible and difficult profession. Military service, especially in its first stages, is associated with many personal inconveniences and numerous difficulties. He who chooses this service must be ready to endure them steadfastly, as is required by the regulations.

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Why, the misunderstanding reader may ask, do I argue in favor of military training institutions but lay my emphasis mainly on the difficulties and the possible mistakes? I am doing this because I want to keep the reader from making such mistakes. Once again I must stress that these mistakes do not happen often. But it would be better for them to never happen at all.

After deciding on a military career, it is also important to determine the specialty and the work profile. Inasmuch as we are talking about the engineer troops, we will assume that the specialty question has been answered. But another far from idle question still remains: Do I enter a command, an engineering, or a political school?

There are no sharp boundaries today between the activities of a commander and a specialist in the engineering-technical service. A deep knowledge of the materiel, of its combat and technical capabilities, and of the rules of its operation and maintenance is an indispensable prerequisite of a commander's successful work. The military engineer, meanwhile, no matter what post he occupies, is obligated to participate in personnel training and indoctrination on an equal basis with the commander, in addition to solving technical problems. Typically today, with time an officer who is an engineer by specialty often changes his work profile and becomes a commander. And it is no accident that command schools, as we know, provide engineering training (and the corresponding diploma). Nevertheless there are differences in the work of a commander and an engineer, and on selecting the form of your future activity, it is important for you to soberly assess your potentials and interests. If, for example, the individual is interested in equipment and likes to design things, it would naturally be preferable for him to study in an engineering school.

Having chosen the sort of school, it would be a good idea to promptly prepare and submit all of the necessary documents. This is also important because sometimes a dream fails to come true for purely technical reasons: The application was late.

Young people who have finished their secondary education, whose health is certified to be suited to training in military educational institutions, and who have successfully passed competitive entrance examinations may apply to military engineering schools. Both young civilians and servicemen can apply to military school. The age of applicants is defined as that on 1 September of the year of acceptance. Maximum age is 21 years for civilians, privates, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers in their first term of service, 23 years for servicemen in their second term of service (after completing it), and 25 years for warrant officers.

Interested individuals must submit a request for acceptance to the military educational institution to the regional military commissariat at their place of residence, or directly to the chief of the school (in the latter case the travel documents are filled out by the military commissariat in response to a petition by the appropriate VUZ). Servicemen submit their application up the chain of command.

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Let me recall the addresses of the schools:

Kaliningrad Higher Engineering Order of Lenin Red Banner School imeni A. A. Zhdanov--236022, Kaliningrad, 22, Oblast Office.

Kamenets-Podol'skiy Higher Military Engineering Command School imeni Marshal of Engineer Troops V. K.Kharchenko--281900, Kamanets-Podol'skiy, Khmel'nitskaya Oblast, Gagarin Street, 56.

Tyumen' Higher Military Engineering Command School imeni Marshal of Engineer Troops A. I. Proshlyakov--625028, Tyumen', 28.

Donetsk Higher Military-Political School of Engineering Troops and Signal Troops--340005, Donetsk, 5.

The following must be attached to the application: autobiography, performance report from place of employment or study, party or Komsomol performance report (for candidates and members of the CPSU and members of the Komsomol), the original secondary education certificate, birth certificate, the military commission's conclusion as to state of health (this commission operates under the military commissariat), and three notorized 3 x 4 cm photographs.

All documents must be submitted prior to 30 April (prior to 30 March for servicemen) of the year of admission. Students who are still in school (tekhnikum) submit their current academic record in place of a secondary education certificate (diploma); in this case applicants must hand-carry the certificate or diploma and the passport and registration certificate to the VUZ admissions commission.

Students at Suvorov military schools must submit the same documents (by the same deadline). These documents are sent by the school command.

It stands to reason that correctly filling out and promptly submitting the documents is only part of the procedure, and though it is important, it is not the most important. Naturally, what is most important is to prepare well for the competitive entrance examinations.

Applicants to military engineering schools take examinations in general education disciplines. Several days are usually devoted to preparing for each examination. But to count on just these days alone would mean consciously predestining yourself to failure. I can give only one piece of advice to young people graduating from secondary special educational institutions: If you want to enter a VUZ, begin preparing yourself in school, and the sooner the better. Your school affords all of the conditions necessary and sufficient to permit deep assimilation of the program. The rest depends on your will, persistence, and patience. And without these qualities you cannot even dream about becoming a regular soldier, an officer in the army and navy.

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The programs of entrance examinations on general educational topics are the same in higher military training institutions as they are in civilian institutes. They are published annually by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education. It would be very useful to obtain this program beforehand and test your own knowledge.

Special attention should be devoted to mathematics. Experience has shown that this is precisely the subject which is the stumbling block in the examinations most often. And you must not forget that mathematics is the foundation of all exact sciences. Making your preparations, you must not only thoroughly study the theory of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, but you must also reinforce this theory by solving problems. The more problems you solve, the firmer and deeper will be your knowledge. This has been confirmed by many years of experience. Solving problems published in reference literature for VUZ applicants can help a great deal to reinforce the material.

But it would not be right to think that good knowledge of mathematics, physics, and chemistry would alone insure success in the competitive exams. Literature and Russian language are also very important topics, and for the future officer, by the nature of his activity as an educator they are absolutely necessary! All the more so because the programs of the technical VUZ's do not offer courses in literature and Russian language. This is why it is very important to accumulate a maximum of knowledge in this area while still in school.

To best prepare for the examinations I recommend that you first of all write up a detailed plan: Knowing your own weak points, clearly distribute your time among the subjects, and adhere to this plan strictly. This incidently is also a good test of your will and your ability to organize yourself. Going over some particular topic, it would be a good idea to summarize the basic problems (this ability will also be very useful in school). In no case should you leave difficult places in the material for "later on." If you are unable to understand things yourself, ask a teacher or a friend to help you. On finishing a section of the material, do check yourself by answering the test questions and solving the problems.

Do not forget about literature (mainly the works indicated in the program). Studying Russian language and literature, try to memorize the best expressions in order to enrich your vocabulary.

And, finally, you must remember that on entering the school, you will once again be interviewed by a medical commission (at the school) and asked to pass the GTO standards. Health and regular athletic activities are necessary, all the more so because they are a prerequisite of successful study, and not at all an interference to it.

And when the notice to appear at the school arrives, you must mobilize all of your will so as to review the material and calmly, sensibly think out your answers in the time allotted. Do not believe those (usually the unsuccessful

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ones) who prophesize the "philosophy" of treating the examination as a lottery. If you have prepared yourself well and have a good knowledge of the subject, you can be confident of success. The admissions commission is staffed by experienced teachers who will be able to determine how deep an applicant's knowledge is.

As we know, the strongest wins in a competition. The competitive point count consists of the grades received in the entrance examinations and the arithmetic mean of the grades in all disciplines shown on the secondary education certificate.

Naturally preference is shown by the admissions commission mainly to those applicants who have already served a certain time in the military, or who had prepared for service while still in school, as well as to those who received outstanding grades and participated actively in public and political life. This is why according to the VUZ admissions statute first-term servicemen who are outstanding soldiers of combat and political training and who have earned a USSR order or medal are admitted irrespective of their place in the competitive exams (on the condition that all of the examinations are passed with a positive grade).

Among other applicants who accumulate an equal number of points, Komsomol members recommended for training by Komsomol raykoms and gorkoms (by political sections in the army) are entitled to preferential consideration. Such consideration is also given to graduates of young military patriot schools operating under the sponsorship of military schools.

Suvorov school graduates are admitted to command schools (following 4 years of training) without taking entrance examinations. Students from civilian institutes who had received grades of "excellent" and "good" in not less than a year in a major corresponding to the school's profile (students of the mechanics department as an example) can also be admitted to the first year at the VUZ without taking the examinations (following an interview). Applicants who had graduated from secondary school or a tekhnikum with a medal (a diploma with honors) need to take an examination in only one discipline. If they demonstrate excellent knowledge, they are released from further examinations. Those receiving a grade of "good" or "satisfactory" must take examinations in the rest of the subjects and compete with the other applicants.

In conclusion let me recall once again that the newspapers KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and KOMSOMOL'KAYA PRAVDA publish announcements of school admissions and the detailed admission requirements annually. Moreover Voenizdat periodically publishes the reference "Voyennyye uchilishcha i akademii" (Military Schools and Academies).

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Conclusion

More than 6 decades have passed since the time that the thundering guns of the Aurora announced to the world the birth of a new special formation--the first laborers state in mankind's history. And the first act of this state was the Decree of Peace--an appeal to all peoples and governments to reject war forever. Since that time and to this day, the Communist Party and the Soviet government have not reduced their efforts in their intense, persistent, and consistent struggle for peace and for relaxation of international tension.

The urgency of this struggle has increased especially in connection with appearance of nuclear missiles and other combat resources which threaten incalculable disaster for all mankind. This is precisely why the Program of Peace, which was declared by the party and is now being persistently implemented, enjoys the understanding and avid support of not only socialist countries but also progressive organizations abroad and all persons of sound mind on our planet. But there is another side to this.

Literally from the first days of its birth, the Republic of the Soviets found itself within a fiery ring of fronts. The internal forces of counter-revolution received powerful support from international imperialism. This is why we were forced to create new armed forces, an army of the people, called upon to defend the achievements of the socialist revolution, and the liberty and independence of the laborers, who took power into their own hands. It is precisely in view of these circumstances that Vladimir Il'ich Lenin felt it necessary to point out that "...the first commandment of our policy, the first lesson...which all workers and peasants must learn is to be on guard..."*

In the last 6 decades reactionary imperialist forces have attempted to test the strength of our state and the power of its armed forces many times. These attempts have invariably ended in failure. Even when 14 capitalist powers possessing the most up-to-date troops of that time attempted to strangle the just-formed republic, devastated by war, starvation, and ruin. When in the 1930's aggressors provoked armed conflicts at times in the east and at other times in the west. When, finally, German fascism, the most shameless force of reactionary imperialism, seized all of the might of the West European economy and attempted to wipe the Soviet Union from the face of the Earth. But to no avail. Led by the Leninist Communist Party and wholly devoted to socialism, the Soviet people and their valorous armed forces dealt an annihilatory blow on the aggressor in a most stubborn struggle of unprecedented scale and savagry, beat the fascist monster back into his lair, liberated the peoples of Europe, and facilitated arising of an entire family of fraternal socialist countries.

* Lenin, V. I., "Poln. sobr. soch." (Complete Collected Works), Vol 44, p 296.

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But the world is not yet calm today. The lessons of history have passed by revenge-seekers and reactionary circles that still survive. Fascism is also still alive in the world. This is why the Communist Party and Soviet government, which are perpetual initiators of the struggle for peace and for relaxation of international tension, soberly consider the objective reality that the reactionary forces of imperialism are continuing to raise the military potential of their countries, spurring on the arms race. New ever-dangerous resources of annihilation and destruction are being created. The danger of war still is. And this is why, as CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized at the October (1976) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, we must spend for defense needs "...as much as is needed for the Soviet Union's dependable security, for defense of the achievements of socialism jointly with fraternal countries, for insuring that potential aggressors would never dare to decide the historic debate between the two opposing social systems in their favor by force. It is our duty to the people to continue to hold the armed forces of the country at a high level, so that Soviet soldiers will always possess the most sophisticated weapons, ones which the imperialists would not be able to oppose, and we will continue to hold this duty sacred!"*

Swift development of the economy on the basis of the achievements of scientific-technical progress and the successes of Soviet science and technology are having a most direct influence on the power of our armed forces. The Soviet Army and Navy are receiving the latest models of armament and military equipment satisfying the most up-to-date requirements. The combat characteristics of existing models have been improved and are undergoing continuous improvement, and equipment presently in the troops is being modernized. Resources with which to mechanize laborious operations are being introduced into troop practice more and more broadly, and we are making a gradual transition to full automation and mechanization of the most important equipment operating processes; computers are enjoying ever-broader use. In short, the material-technical base of the fighting power of our armed forces is being improved continuously and thoroughly.

Our party, its Leninist Central Committee, and the Soviet government devote tremendous attention to the problems of improving the life and service of our soldiers.

Personnel of the Soviet Armed Forces respond to the motherland's concern for them with stubborn, intense military labor. Deeply recognizing a responsibility for protecting the peaceful creative labor of the Soviet people, for communism, and for peace in all the world, soldiers of the army and navy are struggling persistently to raise their combat proficiency and their tactical and technical competence. In the classrooms and on the practice ranges, on the exercise fields, during long marine cruises, and in lengthy flights they learn difficult military science and assimilate complex military equipment.

* KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 26 October, 1976.

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And the engineering troops, filled with the desire to strengthen the defensive power of the socialist fatherland, are improving their proficiency within the same formation with their fighting comrades in arms.
[439-11004]

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VETERAN ADDRESSES YOUNG READERS ON MILITARY SERVICE

Moscow ZHIT'--RODINE SLUZHIT' (Live to Serve the Motherland) in Russian 1978 signed to press 13 Jan 78 pp 1-4, 31-55, 83-88

[Annotation, Table of Contents, Biographical Information on Author, Author's Foreword, Chapter 2, and Conclusion from book by Army Gen V. Tolubko, Izdatel'stvo DOSAAF SSSR, 100,000 copies, 83 pages]

[Text] Annotation

A well-known Soviet troop commander describes the remarkable patriotic deeds of a number of generations of Soviet soldiers and the continuity of combat traditions, and he demonstrates the way young army soldiers form the high combat and moral qualities required of defenders of the socialist motherland.

The book is intended for a broad range of readers.

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Biographical Information on Author

Hero of Socialist Labor Army General V. F. Tolubko, a prominent Soviet troop commander, traveled a long road of life and combat in the service of his motherland. The son of a laborer, a teacher by profession, and a tank specialist by military education (received in a school and in an armored academy), during the Great Patriotic War he fought against the fascist German invaders. He commanded a tank brigade and was chief of the operations section of the headquarters of a mechanized corps. Following the war V. F. Tolubko graduated from the Academy of the General Staff and was appointed to

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responsible command and staff posts; in 1960 he became first deputy commander in chief of the missile forces. Later he commanded the troops of a number of military districts. Since 1972 he has been commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces and deputy USSR minister of defense. Vladimir Fedorovich Tolubko is a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a representative in the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Author's Foreword

In light of the CPSU Central Committee's demand to raise the effectiveness of military-patriotic indoctrination of Soviet youth, Izdatel'stvo DOSAAF came up with an important and useful idea--initiating publication of booklets in the series "Geroi voyny i truda--yunym patriotam" (Heroes of War and Labor Speak to Young Patriots), and in this connection it asked me to share my life experience with the young, to have a warm, sincere discussion with our young men and women, and to give them some direction for the future.

Let me say frankly that this is not an easy task. All the more so because, as with many troop commanders, my time is extremely limited due to my official duties. However we, people of the senior generation, never did become accustomed to dwelling on difficulties and avoiding proposals that might be beneficial to the indoctrination, moral-political development, and ideological growth of our young people.

I meticulously selected the materials and organized them in the evenings and on days off; the text was revised and supplemented several times. A lot of thought was also given to the name of the booklet--"Live to Serve the Motherland." In my opinion this title is short and understandable, and at the same time it is affirmative, calling upon people of all ages to assume an active life position both during military service and after it, at all times and in all areas of socially useful labor.

I tried to incorporate in this booklet suggestions and advice which I hoped would help young people, especially young men preparing for military service, to acquire firmness, confidence in their strength, and the capacity to perform their great civic duty to the fatherland with honor and with merit.

Chapter 2. Military Service is Honorable and Responsible

The fundamental law of our fatherland--the USSR Constitution, in the spirit of which all of our multifaceted life is structured, has endowed the laborers with magnificent rights--to work, to rest, to go to school, and to do many other things, and it has insured true freedom, equality, and active participation in management of the affairs of the country and society to every Soviet citizen. Of course these rights also necessarily impose high responsibilities upon citizens--to hold Soviet laws sacred, to strictly maintain labor discipline, to respect the rules of socialist community, to maintain an honorable attitude toward public duty, and to protect and strengthen public, socialist property.

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The Constitution and the USSR Law on Universal Military Obligation obligate all citizens of the country to undergo military service in the armed forces, irrespective of racial and national origin, creed, education, way of life, and social and material status. Military service and protection of the socialist fatherland are the sacred duty and the highest and most honorable obligation of Soviet citizens.

We honor and respect all socially useful labor. The metallurgist, the miner, the baker, the teacher, the doctor, and the scientist all work for the same common good, contributing by their selfless labor to development of communist society. But military labor is especially honorable. Military service in the Soviet Armed Forces is honorable and responsible mainly because the army and navy or our country are called upon to protect the peaceful creative labor of the Soviet people, to defend the achievements of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the liberty and independence of the Soviet motherland and countries in the socialist fraternity, and to insure peace.

Twice a year, in spring and fall, a new remarkable complement of Soviet citizens that have reached 18 years of age enter military service in order to fulfill their filial duty to the motherland. The draft boards of the military commissariats subject the young people to medical certification, help them choose their military specialty, and take pains to see that the day they leave for their place of service would become an important, memorable event in the life of each young person.

The number of letters written to military commissariats and to deputies increases significantly in the enlistment period. Parents write requesting help in placing their son in the best units, including missile units. To the extent possible, we help veteran missilemen to prolong their family tradition. It is good when a son travels the road of his father. But on reading these letters I am forced to ask: Why are only the missile forces often thought to be the best? After all, all branches of our armed forces are outstanding--the missile forces, the ground forces, the air defense forces, the air force, and the navy. Courageous, competent privates and seamen having perfect mastery of modern military specialties serve in each of them. This is why I can boldly recommend to any young person who has not undergone prescript training but desires to serve in units outfitted with modern equipment that he become a motorized rifleman, a machinegunner, a grenade thrower, a mortar gunner, a sailor, a combat engineer--that he join whatever unit is suggested by the military commissariat, and learn any one of the specialties. And I am certain that wherever he goes, the young person will find interesting work and moral satisfaction in his subsequent military service!

The time of the draft is a busy time, one of great and responsible state work. During the time that young people are being drafted for service not only military commissariats but also commanders of all ranks have to do a great deal of work to insure that young newly arriving privates and seamen

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would be settled adequately, warmly met, and quickly worked into the close military family.

Our commanders and political agencies organize reception of the new complement in such a way that beginning with the first days after his arrival, each young soldier would feel himself to be within the benevolent atmosphere of a military collective, in which relationships of friendship and comradely mutual assistance reign.

Strict discipline, firm military order, and daily combat training require young soldiers to exert considerable moral and physical effort. We on our part, meanwhile, persistently and patiently help them adapt to difficult army life and nurture their spirit of exactingness and good military bearing. Commanders and political workers also shower concern on soldiers being retired into the reserves; they try to see that each of them would feel it his obligation to prepare an honorable replacement, and to transmit his knowledge and experience to young soldiers.

Military work is diverse and complex. During their time of service, soldiers must perform the most diverse tasks associated with combat and political training. They study armament and combat equipment, master political knowledge, deeply assimilate their specialty, serve duty, attain maturity in the field exercises, constantly improve their personal and collective military habits and skills, support law and order in residential and work buildings, and participate in public cultural measures.

By tradition, Soviet soldiers are often asked to render assistance to the public in connection with natural disasters and harvests. Thus in spring and fall 1976 thousands of army trucks helped to carry grain grown in our country. The battle for bread was waged in difficult weather, day and night. Many military drivers surpassed their daily food shipment quotas by two to three times.

Motor vehicle units and subunits led by communists S. Yermak, K. Ignatenko, F. Serdyukov, N. Kazimov, G. Baranenko, I. Bogdanov, and others achieved especially high results in the 1976 harvest.

I would like to acquaint the readers with the content of socialist pledges adopted by personnel of a certain motor transport unit sent to one of the agricultural regions for harvesting operations. Here is the text of these pledges, published on 11 August 1976 in the local newspaper.

"Dear Comrades! Working toward a noteworthy date in the life of our multinational state--the 60th anniversary of Great October, all Soviet people, inspired by the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, are achieving remarkable labor victories.

"A rich harvest has been grown on the fields of our motherland. To the farmers of our country, 1976 is a special year, since it is the starting point for even greater successes.

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"CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade L. I. Brezhnev noted in a letter to the country's famous mechanics who served as delegates to the 25th CPSU Congress: 'Harvest the crops quickly and without losses, and perform all other agricultural operations with high quality: This is an important national economic task.'

"We, the military motor troops, have perceived these words to be an order from the party and motherland to complete, with high quality, the state assignment of harvesting the crops of 1976, the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan.

"Fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, agricultural laborers of this oblast promised to harvest 7 million tons and sell 3.6 million tons of grain to the state in 1976. The region's grain farmers initiated the socialist competition to satisfy the quotas of two annual plans.

"Supporting the patriotic initiative of the grain growers, we, the motor troops, hereby join the socialist competition with the motto 'Shock Labor on the Fields of the Motherland--Our Response to Decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress,' and we pledge:

"To learn to work and live as Lenin would have wanted us to, in the communist style;

"to complete the daily grain shipment plan by 180-200 percent. To carry the following amounts of grain: drivers of 4-ton trucks--2,000 tons, drivers of 2-ton trucks--1,000 tons;

"to display the best qualities of a Soviet soldier: selflessness, readiness for heroic labor, a high sense of collectivism, and military comradeship; to embody in concrete deeds the party's demand to work better today and tomorrow than yesterday;

"to see that every vehicle would leave for the fields in good running order and would not remain idle. To competently maintain a vehicle technical readiness factor no less than 0.9;

"to serve as an example of organization and discipline, to confirm the norms of communist morality by word, deed, and personal example, to comply with the high principles of friendship and mutual assistance, to wage a relentless fight to prevent transgressions and amoral phenomena, and to completely exclude accidents on the job and on the road;

"to do everything possible to preserve national and military property, to prevent loss of grain during transportation, to hold the honor of the Soviet soldier high, and to never forget one's military duty;

"to fight for model social order and high military culture in the field camp;

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"to take an active part in the competition for the best harvest transport crew, for high work quality, for high labor productivity, for maximum use of the technical possibilities of the vehicles, for mastery of the best procedures and the methods of recognized masters, for economization of every minute of working time, for satisfaction and oversatisfaction of shipping quotas, and for reduction of harvesting time;

"to have every Komsomol member fight for the right to sign the Report of the Leninist Komsomol to the CPSU Central Committee in honor of the 60th anniversary of Great October;

"to fight for economization of materials and technical resources: to increase the life of storage batteries, economize on fuel and lubricants by 10 percent, and increase the warranty period of the motor vehicles by 5,000 kilometers.

"We, the transport troops, having joined the great battle for the harvest, will by our selfless labor make an honorable contribution to satisfaction of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. We appeal to all transport troops to support the remarkable initiative of the region's agricultural laborers and to honorably complete the party and state assignment of harvesting the crops of 1976!"

I should note that the pledges the personnel adopted were successfully completed and surpassed.

Army and navy motor transport battalions helping out in the harvest of 1976 carried an average of 1.2 million tons of agricultural products each. And the battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel S. Yermak carried 1.78 million tons of agricultural products, to include more than a million tons of grain.

L. I. Brezhnev warmly congratulated the motor troops on their great labor victory and wished new successes upon the valorous soldiers of the army and navy. For their shock labor, many motor vehicle drivers were given government awards and prizes by local party and Soviet agencies as well as the command of the armed forces.

Among the glorious deeds with which the laborers of our country and soldiers of the army and navy met this remarkable date--the 60th anniversary of Great October, a special place is afforded to the outstanding achievements of the conquerers of space--Soviet cosmonauts, scientists, designers, engineers, and laborers. As a result of the creative, stubborn labor of collectives and organizations participating in creation of the rocket and space technology, and due to the skill and bravery of pilot-cosmonauts, long space expeditions have been successfully completed aboard the Salyut-4 and Salyut-5 orbiting laboratories, and history's first joint flight of Soviet and American Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft was completed. The USSR took the world's first photographs of the surface of Venus--the mysterious cosmic neighbor of Earth--from the space stations Venera-9 and Venera-10. The Luna-22 station continues to bear its cosmic watch in the vicinity of our natural

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satellite. Raduga, Ekran, Kosmos, Interkosmos, Molniya, and Meteor satellites are working untiringly in near-Earth orbit.

The successes of Soviet cosmonautics and the course of its development are aimed at completing scientific and national economic tasks posed by the party and government, and at widening international cooperation with all countries in the peaceful use of outer space. And the Soviet Union is doing everything depending upon it to see that outer space would in fact be peaceful, serving the good of all peoples and promoting mankind's progress and flourishing.

The USA, which had been actively developing new kinds of weapons, has recently demonstrated an entirely different approach to the uses of outer space. The newspaper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES reports that the Pentagon made the U.S. Congress aware of a secret program to create resources by which to annihilate "enemy satellites." An interceptor capable of knocking a Soviet satellite out of orbit is to be designed in the next 5 years.

"Considering the growing significance of outer space to military operations," reads a report submitted to Congress by the director of the Defense Department's administration of scientific-technical research, "I intend to enlarge the accent placed on this program, so that the interceptor system could be tested in 1980, such that it could be put into operation by 1982."

A highly confidential variant of this report which THE LOS ANGELES TIMES managed to obtain emphasizes: "In the interests of national policy, the very fact that we are studying the possibilities for neutralizing foreign satellites must be classified."

The Pentagon's special atmosphere of secrecy about this program is no accident, since it is being implemented in direct violation of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which bears the signature of the United States.

The Pentagon report states directly that the Pentagon views "satellites as a means for supporting military operations." Obviously the writers of the report admit that their plans are against the law; it is no accident that this cynical document notes that "although outer space is said to be inviolable today, this may some day change."

I feel that little more can be said. The American program for creating new weapons with the goal of waging war in outer space speaks for itself, clearly indicating the aggressive core of its writers and defenders.

CPSU Central Committee Politburo Member, USSR Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov noted in his article "Guardsmen of Peaceful Labor, Bulwark of Universal Peace" (KOMMUNIST, No 3, 1977): "Militarist circles of the USA have not yet abandoned their hope of attaining military

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superiority over the USSR by creating new types of mass destruction weapons. Life has many times demonstrated the groundlessness of such designs, and their implementation has not at all strengthened the security of the USA. Those who hope to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union with the help of such weapons should remember that our country's economy, science, and technology are at such a high level that we are in a position to create, within the shortest time, any form of weapon upon which the enemies of peace might want to place their bet. The Soviet Union has declared many times that it is not our desire to travel this road. This is precisely why it suggested to the United States that the countries refrain on a mutual basis from developing new types of weapons and systems."

All of our soldiers and pilot-cosmonauts were disturbed and amazed by the report that the USA is intending to create antisatellite weapons, and by the revelation of the Pentagon's malicious secret designs and plans aimed against the Soviet Union and doing harm to the interests of international cooperation in space exploration. These hostile intentions, were they to be realized, would be another black mark against the imperialist aggressors, keeping the peace-loving peoples from living calmly and laboring fruitfully.

In our socialist society, high results are achieved in all areas of activity through hard and constant labor, and only through labor. Creative labor is always something that is festive and joyous, eliciting a great emotional response; it is a principal and necessary prerequisite for attainment of the great goals of life, and it is the greatest satisfaction which an individual can experience. Labor ennobles everyone, and all the more so when this labor serves other people and the glorious ideals of communism. In such labor, the individual acquires confidence in his strength and comes to recognize how useful and necessary his labor is to society. And it is no accident that labor has become a matter of honor and glory, of valor and heroism in our country.

Labor and the love of labor are among the invariable prerequisites of success in all walks of life. This truth is known to all. And the overwhelming majority of our people constantly express diligence and fight to raise labor productivity and increase the effectiveness and quality of work, as a result receiving high moral satisfaction and the corresponding material reward.

Unfortunately we still encounter certain young individuals who are reluctant to work with full effort for the good of society and, consequently, themselves. They mistakenly believe that others will do everything for them. We would have to confess that even soldiers sometimes possess such "flaws." This is why commanders, political workers, and party and Komsomol organizations must work a great deal with such individuals to set them on the right path and raise their diligence. With time, they do shape up as a rule. Moreover, they become the best soldiers, achieving outstanding results in combat and political training.

Not every young soldier adjusts easily and quickly to the strict tenor of military service. But it is a fabulous school of political education,

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endurance, and discipline for our young people, a school in which they develop the moral-combat qualities they need, improve their physical fitness, and gain all sorts of work skills which remain with them all their lives.

The Soviet people love and respect their army, and therefore they display special attention and concern to the soldiers. And the soldiers--the sons of the people--treasure the honor rendered to them, working to justify the high purpose given to them as defenders of the fatherland.

Soviet soldiers have an extremely honorable and responsible duty. They protect all that has been created by the people, and they are responsible for that which is most precious and most sacred to us--the liberty and independence of the socialist motherland. Today their duty is to alertly guard its security and peace!

The Communist Party is persistently and consistently fighting to preserve and strengthen peace, relax international tension, and prevent new wars and military conflicts. It is doing everything to create the most favorable foreign political situation for communist construction, and to forever exclude the use of military force in relations between states.

Understandably there cannot be any pauses and interruptions in relaxation. Life constantly poses new tasks. And the most important of them is to strengthen political relaxation with military relaxation. Such is the will of the times--to limit and then halt the arms race, to strike a road leading to disarmament!

As relaxation of tension acquires more and more followers, the hostility and resistance of its opponents intensifies. The acute struggle between the forces of peace and war is being waged not only in relation to those measures which would make relaxation irreversible but also in regard to the definition of the very essence of relaxation, its goals, and its principles. The enemies of relaxation are doing everything to distort, weaken, and block the work of peace. CPSU Central Committee General Secretary L. I. Brezhnev noted at the 25th CPSU Congress: "The enemies of relaxation and disarmament still possess considerable resources. They are working actively, in different forms and in different directions. Although the possibilities imperialism has for aggressive actions have now been significantly pared, the nature of imperialism continues to be the same. This is why peace-loving forces must display high alertness."

Propaganda agencies of the USA and other NATO countries have recently initiated a loud anti-Soviet campaign in relation to a supposed growing 'Soviet threat.' Various fabrications suggesting that the USSR is preparing to unleash a nuclear war and is excessively increasing its arms are being propagated. The realities demonstrate the total lack of grounds of and prejudice in all of these fabrications.

The peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union is well known. It has always been an opponent of the arms race, and it has never tried to attain superiority

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in its armed forces with the goal of making the "first strike," as false bourgeois propaganda suggests. Our country has always been and continues to be a consistent champion of reducing arms and armed forces. Its efforts, as Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said in his speech at Tula, "are intended to keep matters from going as far as first or second strikes, to preclude nuclear war completely.... Our country will never assume the road of aggression, and it will never raise a saber against other peoples."

In his article noted above, "Guardsmen of Peaceful Labor, Bulwark of Universal Peace," in addition to deeply analyzing many of the most important problems, CPSU Central Committee Politburo Member, USSR Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov persuasively and quite definitely demonstrated the true state of affairs in the military policy of imperialist countries in the NATO bloc--unprecedented growth of their aggressive preparations for war, intensified militarization of the economy, uninterrupted growth in military expenditures, creation of new forms of strategic offensive arms, and so on.

Proving the groundlessness of slanderous declarations that the USSR and other socialist countries have been enlarging their armed forces just about every year, D. F. Ustinov emphasized that neither the Soviet Union nor other countries in the Warsaw Pact have enlarged their armed forces for several years, and that the strength of these armed forces has remained constant. On the other hand imperialist NATO countries, in addition to making qualitative improvements on their armies, are increasing the quantity of arms they possess and creating new military formations, thus creating tension in international relations. This forces the Soviet Union to display untiring concern for maintaining its defensive potential at a level sufficient to keep anyone from risking disturbance our people's peaceful life.

The Communist Party, the Soviet government, the USSR Minister of Defense, and all commanders and political workers devote unweakening attention to training and indoctrination of our troops, and to raising the overall combat readiness of the armed forces.

Combat readiness is an alloy of sufficient equipment in our troops, their military skill, their moral-political, psychological, and physical maturity, organization, and the readiness of every Soviet soldier to perform acts of heroism in behalf of his military duty to the motherland. Describing the combat readiness of the troops, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said figuratively and quite precisely that "it is the focus at which the tremendous efforts and material outlays of the people on equipping the army, the consciousness, combat skills, and discipline of all servicemen, the artfulness of the command in troop control, and much else are concentrated. This, in the end, is the crowning glory of the combat proficiency of the troops in peacetime, and the key to victory in war."

Strategic missilemen, and all soldiers of the Soviet Armed Forces, are constantly improving their proficiency and persistently raising their combat readiness such as to guarantee an immediate repulse to any aggressor.

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Dear readers! Let me go into somewhat greater detail about the Strategic Missile Forces (SMF), which it is my duty to command.

As a result of the achievements of domestic science and technology our units and subunits are armed with the most up-to-date missiles capable of carrying charges of colossal power, traveling all distances, and making accurate and indefensible strikes against the aggressor, should he attempt to unleash a war against the Soviet Union and countries of the socialist fraternity.

Being an inseparable part of the Soviet Armed Forces, the Strategic Missile Forces are perpetually on guard, ready for combat every second. Such readiness, which is forced upon us, is an extremely necessary measure, being the principal restraining factor against the aggressive desires of hostile forces, and it is maintained with a humane goal--to keep anyone from ever using a destructive nuclear missile weapon.

Day and night, winter and summer, in blazing heat and inclement weather--in a word, as long as the situation will require, the strategic missilemen will alertly guard the peace. They have inherited and they carefully preserve and multiply the glorious traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces: total devotion to the ideals of communism, unlimited love for the socialist motherland, and faithfulness to patriotic and international duty.

Daily training in the SMF is filled with hard work. Participating actively in the competition for greater combat readiness, the privates, sergeants, warrant officers, and officers of the missile troops are attaining significant successes in their service. The overwhelming majority of training launches of strategic missiles are completed with outstanding grades. From year to year the number of masters of military affairs, classed specialists, and ranked sportsmen is growing in the units. One of the best military collectives is the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Yefimenko. This unit has been receiving outstanding grades and serving as a unique beacon in military work for 6 years.

The initiative of personnel in another outstanding unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Kryzhko elicited a tremendous surge of power in the missilemen. Soldiers of that unit unanimously appealed to personnel of the missile troops to actively join a socialist competition to raise combat readiness, improve combat skills, persistently assimilate new equipment, and meet the 60th anniversary of Great October honorably. This appeal was met with broad support, and it was enthusiastically accepted in all missile units.

The hard work of soldiers, the command, and party and Komsomol organizations can be seen behind the great results and the pledges adopted. They represent confidence, inspiration, and burning patriotism, which helps to surmount difficulties and to insure successful completion of all complex missions. It is important that military collectives do not become self-satisfied with their successes. They seek and find unutilized reserves and new possibilities for improving the quality of combat and political training and for raising the combat readiness and battleworthiness of the missile troops.

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The missilemen are typified by the same qualities seen in all soldiers: unflinching compliance with the requirements of the manuals and instructions, unquestioning obedience to commanders and chiefs, and a readiness to act immediately. But missilemen also have an extreme need for crystal-clean honor and collectivism. After all, missiles are collective weapons. This is why we have a greater need than anyone for crews that would act as if they were a single person. Honesty, coordination, confidence in support, and swiftness and efficiency in the work of specialists acquire special significance.

Insuring the safety of their motherland, the missilemen are performing duty around the clock, which is the highest form of combat readiness. Soldiers are invariably at their posts, being ready to respond to a combat order immediately. The missilemen never weaken, since they know that they will be required to mobilize their strengths and display high moral-political and combat qualities at any moment.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government display constant concern for our armed forces, the pride of the Soviet people. Party and government leaders have visited the missilemen many times, they have shown an interest in their service and life, and they have attended practical exercises in which missiles have been launched. To the troops, each of their visits is an important examination.

The soldiers will forever remember the visit to the missile units made by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary L. I. Brezhnev and CPSU Central Committee Politburo Member, USSR Minister of Defense D. F. Ustinov. They delved into all details of combat and political training, talked with privates, sergeants, officers, and the families of servicemen, they visited their homes and training buildings, and they attentively inspected the Lenin rooms and museums of combat glory. With their typical kindness and sympathy, Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev and Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov asked the soldiers, commanders, and political workers about their difficulties, gave valuable advice, and rendered practical assistance.

The strategic missilemen are deeply grateful to their people, their Communist Party, the Soviet government, and personally marshals of the Soviet Union Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev and Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov who are providing the troops with top-class weapons and combat equipment, and everything they need for combat training, service, and day-to-day life.

The constant concern shown to the armed forces by the people, the party, and government obligate every soldier to treasure this attention and trust, to raise his ideological maturity and occupational skills, and to devote all of his capabilities and knowledge to serving the motherland.

Missile units and subunits are headed by experienced, knowledgeable commanders limitlessly devoted to the people. Most of them have an engineering education. The officer corps of the SMF consists mainly of specialists with high

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qualifications who have mastered the theory of Marxism-Leninism, military affairs, mathematics, mechanics, electronics, automation, ballistics, and other exact sciences. They are true indoctrinators and mentors of the personnel. Our sergeants and privates also exhibit a sufficiently high level of general education, and they are well developed politically, physically, and culturally. Naturally this promotes assimilation of complex military professions in short time.

Daily training, combat duty, preparation for launches, and missile launches themselves require the coordinated actions of all crewmembers and many different specialists. Service in our troops is unique in that it develops the sense of collectivism, comradeship, and mutual assistance in our soldiers, which in turn unifies the personnel of the missile troops and raises the responsibility of every soldier for completing the combat training mission.

The high degree to which missile preparation and launching is automated has somewhat reduced the physical load upon the crewmembers. However, this has not reduced the demands placed on their moral-combat and psychological qualities. Therefore the main direction of indoctrination in the troops is that of developing the capability for steadfastly withstanding all difficulties and deprivations and the most severe trials of war, should it be imposed upon the Soviet Union by aggressors, and of developing the will to win.

The entire system of combat and political training in the missile troops is permeated by party concern for developing high political activity and consciousness, tactical and technical competence, purposeful training, and sensible use of limited time by missilemen. In addition to improving their occupational knowledge and military proficiency, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, and privates systematically and deeply study the works of V. I. Lenin, the proceedings and decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, and other party and government documents.

Many years have passed since the day when the first ballistic and intercontinental missiles passed in review during a military parade in Red Square in Moscow. The equipment of the Strategic Missile Forces has become more complex since then. A good, highly up-to-date training material base has been created for its study: classrooms with various training aids; trainers and laboratory complexes outfitted with training missiles, consoles, machine units, electrified stands, and individual systems. Our commanders, engineers, staffs, and political agencies are working creatively to see that all lessons and exercises would be of good quality, and serve as a firm base from which to raise the proficiency of the personnel and the combat readiness of the troops.

Red stars--testimony to outstanding combat training launches--shine in the subunits as a symbol of the combat maturity of the missilemen. The motherland holds the military work of the soldiers in high esteem. The best units and missilemen who distinguish themselves in service are awarded orders and medals, and their names are inscribed in the Honor Roll of the SMF Military Council.

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Together with soldiers of other branches of the armed forces, the missilemen are inspired by the high assessment given by the motherland to their military labor, which merges into a single whole with the labor of all the people. They deeply recognize the tremendous significance their successes in military service, study of military affairs, and maintenance of high alertness and combat readiness have to development of communism. Every soldier understands that by fulfilling his military duty in an exemplary manner, he consequently protects the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and promotes implementation of the grand plans outlined by the 25th CPSU Congress.

As the missile troops develop, the requirements imposed on discipline increase as well. Problems concerning not only the training level and interaction of personnel but also their organization and discipline are now as pressing as never before. This is why personal responsibility of every missileman for strengthening discipline and for unquestioningly and efficiently fulfilling the requirements of all manuals, instructions, and orders of commanders and chiefs is extremely great.

It should be noted that nuclear missiles have broadened the concept of military discipline. Terms such as "combat duty discipline," "time discipline," "technical discipline," and others have appeared; they have been deeply assimilated by every missileman, and they have become the foundation of combat work for all.

Combat duty has a great influence on development of the moral-combat qualities needed by missilemen. Extreme accuracy and precision in all actions with the equipment and punctual fulfillment of instructions, schedules, and commands are required of the personnel in this regard. Even the slightest lack of organization and inefficiency may cause failure of the mission. The duty shifts and crews contain experienced political workers, and party and Komsomol groups are being created. When combat duty is summarized, the actions of every specialist are analyzed, the experience of the best is generalized and disseminated, and all omissions and mistakes are critically evaluated.

Combat duty in the Strategic Missile Forces means fulfillment of an especially important mission. Every hour of duty demands maximum composure, unweakening attention, and untiring alertness from the soldiers. Combat duty in a highly exacting situation tempers the will and strengthens each soldier's confidence in his capabilities and his faith in comrades in arms, in the collective, and in the force of the menacing weapons.

The missileman's development is the product of an entire system of training and indoctrination. Our commanders and political workers try to use on-duty time to raise the combat proficiency of the personnel. They devote a great deal of attention to seeking and assimilating the most effective means for operating the highly complex equipment, and they create, during duty hours and in daily training, conditions promoting development of endurance,

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decisiveness, and other qualities in the soldiers upon which troop combat readiness depends in the end.

Organizing combat training, commanders and political workers always remember that development of the soldier and formation of his qualities as a dependable defender of the motherland proceed faster and more fruitfully wherever relationships between younger and older soldiers and among members of the military collective are based on a sound official foundation, wherever all training is conducted in a situation close to that of real battle, and wherever troop political and military indoctrination proceeds in the spirit of modern demands.

Every branch of the armed forces is periodically assigned tasks which demonstrate the skill level of the personnel. For our troops, such a task is, as I had noted earlier, training missile launches. During such times we test the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the missilemen, their moral-combat and psychological qualities, and the coordination of the crews. And I am happy to note that in the year of the 25th CPSU Congress and in the year of the 60th anniversary of Great October most missile launches were completed by the Strategic Missile Forces with excellent grades.

The socialist competition is an inexhaustible source of high results in combat training, and a powerful lever with which to increase the effectiveness and quality of troop training. It has become an inseparable part of the entire process of personnel training and indoctrination, and an efficient means for implementing Lenin's principle: "...always go farther, always do more, proceed always from the easier to the harder tasks."

Socialist competition is organized in the missile troops between units, sub-units, and specialists. As a rule, all adopted pledges spell out new, high summits in military labor in relation to ideological-political, professional, and all-arms competition. The competition rules foresee unquestioning fulfillment of functional responsibilities, alert duty, performance above and beyond the standards, perfect knowledge and careful maintenance of equipment, high-quality repairs, assimilation of associated specialties, and active participation in sociopolitical life, in popular sports functions, and in other measures.

A combat watch served at a console is a good school for every missileman. Competition while on duty has great significance. Pledges adopted by the soldiers for the time of combat duty include, in addition to special problems, concrete items such as complying with the moral and esthetic norms of behavior.

Practice has shown that socialist competition promotes formation of high consciousness, a communist attitude toward military labor, and high-quality completion of missions by the missilemen. Communists and Komsomol members are in the front ranks of the competitors. Broad scope, visibility and

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comparability of competition results, dissemination of the best experience, and comradely mutual assistance promote creation of a business-like, creative atmosphere in the units and subunits. Every soldier tries to make his contribution to strengthening the combat power of the troops. This was graphically confirmed by recent inspections held in the missile subunits, where combat skills, moral-political and psychological training, and the physical fitness of the missilemen successfully passed a serious examination.

Party and Komsomol organizations are the active force that has a constant influence upon successful completion of the tasks of combat and political training. Guiding themselves by decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, they do a great deal of fruitful work among the personnel. Communists and Komsomol members cement the military collectives, and by personal example they mobilize the soldiers to attain new lines in improvement of combat proficiency and combat readiness.

The missile troops are young; nevertheless the orders of Lenin, Red Banner, Suvorov, and Kutuzov are proudly displayed on the battle pennant beneath which the soldiers serve. This is explainable. After all, the first ballistic missile units were formed out of artillery and rocket units that had distinguished themselves in the Great Patriotic War. Taking over from these veterans, the missilemen keep the combat traditions of the older generation of soldiers sacred, and they multiply them with their daily military labor. Our young people are now being brought up on examples of the selfless service of the frontline soldiers. On being placed in contact with the revolutionary combat and labor traditions of the Soviet people, the soldiers develop a desire to study excellently and to conscientiously fulfill their duty. As their patriotic feelings grow stronger, their will, stubbornness, and proficiency take shape. It is no accident, therefore, that awards earned by high military proficiency in peacetime now hang side by side with combat orders of the war years on many flame-scarred unit banners.

The missile troops are doing a great deal of work to improve the leisure time of the personnel. They have officers clubs, sports complexes, and various clubs. Amateur art is encouraged everywhere, and athletics are well organized. The movement for exemplary public order and for high culture in all garrisons has been started, and it is now the rule of life for the personnel. This movement's motto is "Learn to Work and Live in Lenin's Style, in Communist Style." This movement is helping to raise the personnel's knowledge of communism, strengthen military discipline, and heighten troop combat readiness.

The All-Union Communist Subbotnik [unpaid work day] dedicated to the 107th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and the 60th anniversary of Great October was a clear demonstration of high communist awareness and the deepest possible interest in strengthening the economic and defensive powers of the Soviet Union. As with all previous subbotniks, this one was a great, bright, holiday spent in unpaid shock labor. Millions of laborers in the cities and towns, and soldiers of the army and navy went to their previously

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designated work areas on 16 April 1977 and completed their assignments with the highest possible results.

In addition to fulfilling their combat duty, during the subbotnik the personnel of the missile troops improved the material base with true enthusiasm and true efficiency; they made improvements on military posts and garrisons and planted trees; they built cultural and personal services facilities; they repaired roads, homes, and work buildings; they cleaned up monuments and obelisks commemorating military glory; they prepared athletic fields and buildings for the spring-summer season; they provided help to organizations they sponsored. Perhaps it would be impossible to enumerate all of the jobs they did, the record figures achieved in labor productivity, and all of the heroes of the day. What was very important was that the subbotnik was a remarkable school of labor and moral education for the soldiers, producing a new influx of strength and energy in the struggle to complete the grand outlines of the Communist Party.

Our Komsomol members are marching in the ranks of active warriors striving to implement the decisions of the CPSU. They direct all of their energy toward the combat and political training plans, and they have made an honorable contribution to development of the socialist competition for the honorary right to be the first to sign the Report of the Leninist Komsomol to the CPSU Central Committee in the 60th Anniversary of Great October. Komsomol soldiers were the initiators of patriotic movements such as "Komsomol Concern for the Training Base," "A Komsomol Guarantee for Every Repair and Launch," "Combat Proficiency in Quick Time," "There Can Be No Failing Soldiers if There Is an Outstanding Soldier Nearby," and "Three or Four Signs of a Soldier's Valor for Every Komsomol Member." These good initiatives are an indication of the conscious attitude our young people have toward military duty, and of their desire to have their influence in improving the quality of combat training.

Komsomol members in their second year of service act as an example to young soldiers; they train them in short time, and they help them become classed specialists, using their own method of narration and demonstration which has come to be referred to by privates and sergeants as "Do As I Do, Do Better Than Me!"

Our Komsomol members who excel in combat and political training often take it on themselves to assume patronage over one or two young soldiers, to whom they reveal the "secrets" of their proficiency in regard to specific standards of the combat work, with whom they share their accumulated experience, and whom they help to quickly assimilate the complex apparatus and master political, military, and technical knowledge.

Komsomol soldiers have been credited with many useful initiatives, glorious deeds, and noble acts. And they all exude enthusiasm, flaming patriotism, burning desire, and an inner need to serve the motherland in the best possible way.

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Noble acts have a remarkable property in that they are capable of attracting universal attention and encouraging others to exalted acts. Heroism inspires many hearts. And when the situation requires, young people display the best traits of character and high feelings of citizenship, and they consciously do everything depending on them, committing acts of heroism and thus demonstrating that they are worthy successors of past glories and continuers of the heroic deeds of their predecessors.

Sometimes we, the veterans of the armed forces, are asked: Can a soldier really commit acts of heroism today, in routine peacetime training?

Yes, he can! There is always room for heroism in life. All the more so in army conditions, which are associated with dynamic actions, exercises, and combat duty.

We will never forget the acts of heroism committed in peacetime by missilemen privates Dmitriy Bushuyev, Valeriy Kostenko, Aleksey Panchishkin, Zinif Zakir'yanov, Viktor Markovnenkov, Nikolay Zhel'man, and Nikolay Krivenko; by Private 1st Class Aleksandr Kistanov; by Junior Sergeant Viktor Babichev; by sergeants Nikolay Nikishev, Valeriy Nakonechnyy, and Nikolay Yermakov; by lieutenants Ivan Gavrilov and Vladimir Basov, and by Senior Lieutenant Yuriy Dubrovin. Vacillating for not even a second, they courageously entered burning buildings and rescued people and combat equipment, they dragged drowning people from icy water, they boldly duelled with the natural elements, and they did not spare their lives to complete their training missions in the most difficult conditions. Many of them have been awarded orders and medals. Missilemen are proud of them, they take them as their examples, and they imitate them.

Soldiers display much endurance, ability, and bravery during preparations for missile launches. After all, a successful missile launch is the culmination of maximally compressed months, weeks, and days of hard training. It is not all that simple to prepare and tune complex units and electronic systems every day and every hour, and to understand the physical meaning of processes occurring in modern equipment. And all of this meticulous and responsible work represents steps on the ladder of proficiency and military heroism.

The responsible nature of military service reveals itself especially clearly during troop and special exercises, when military collectives and every soldier hone and test their skills on the training fields, over the practice ranges, in the air, and on the oceanic expanses, in conditions close to those of real combat.

The work a motorized rifleman, a tank driver, a gunner, a missileman, a combat engineer, a pilot, a seaman, a signalman, and other specialists must do in exercises and in real battle is not easy. Colossal application of spiritual and physical powers, manifestation of initiative, sensible risk, and faultless execution are required of all. These too are steps on the ladder of heroism.

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Acts of heroism can differ: Some are instantaneous like a flash, while others appear commonplace, outwardly unimpressive, lasting days, weeks, months, and years. Acts of heroism may be the result of selfless labor performed over a period of a soldier's entire military career. As Mikhail Ivanovich Kalinin once noted, precise fulfillment of one's responsibilities in all circumstances is also a form of heroism.

Glory is earned through stubborn labor. At first glance it all appears simple: Act persistently and with initiative in exercises, hit the targets accurately, serve combat duty in an excellent manner, and complete the chief's instructions and orders precisely and promptly. But behind all of this we can find inspiration, stubborn training, an effort to surmount all difficulties encountered and, in the end, high-quality fulfillment of the mission.

As the folk saying goes, there can be no heroism without work. Work and heroism march side by side. The work of soldiers is not easy, but they are always ready for heroism. Risking their lives, they will come to the aid of a comrade and be the first to help any person needing it. Bold, courageous, and kind are their hearts!

Young soldiers are acquainted with the heroic past and present of the armed forces beginning in the first days of service in the army and navy. However, even before military service the young people should read more of the political and historical literature and the military memoirs, they should maintain a serious and thoughtful attitude toward their initial military training, they should develop high moral-political qualities, and they should temper their will and their characters, gaining qualities required of every Soviet citizen in all areas of creative activity.

Discussing the possibilities for performing acts of heroism in peacetime, I would like to mention a letter I received in 1976 from students of the Siberian Metallurgical Institute imeni Sergo Ordzhonikidze. They told me about the great and fruitful military-patriotic work being done by the "Poisk" Komsomol club, and about the active support being given to the institute's museum of combat and labor glory.

Then they asked me important and, I would say, closely related questions: What makes a person a hero? What requirements must today's student, who will be living and creating in the 21st century, satisfy?

It is noteworthy that these students are looking far into the future, and that they are already thinking about the next century.

Naturally I had to think a great deal before answering these questions.

I feel compelled to present an excerpt from my reply:

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"In my opinion, every Soviet citizen may become a hero by constantly forming and persistently nurturing and developing his complex of moral and occupational qualities, the principal ones of which are:

"the deepest ideological conviction;

"selfless devotion to the motherland, the Communist Party, and the Soviet government;

"diligence and a constant desire for creative activity;

"creativity, initiative, and efficiency in performing public duty and service responsibilities;

"constant search for and introduction of all that is new, best, and progressive;

"faultless discipline, diligence, and high responsibility for high-quality fulfillment of assigned work;

"systematic improvement of one's knowledge, improvement of one's abilities and skills in all areas of activity;

"exactingness toward oneself, self-criticism in assessment of results, and a constant feeling of dissatisfaction with what has been achieved;

"respect for elders, concern for the families of those who have given their lives, and for veterans of war and labor;

"careful preservation and multiplication of the revolutionary, labor, and combat traditions of the Soviet people and their armed forces;

"a sense of fraternal solidarity with peoples of the socialist countries, and of proletarian internationalism;

"high general and professional excellence, endurance, and tactfulness;

"moral purity;

"crystal-clean honesty, truthfulness, and adherence to principles;

"a sense of comradeship and mutual assistance in the collective;

"spiritual simplicity, modesty, true humanitarianism, benevolence, and attentiveness toward people;

"a readiness to commit acts of heroism and sacrifices in behalf of the motherland;

"the keenest alertness, and burning hatred towards the enemies of communism and peace;

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"strong will, courage, decisiveness, boldness;

"optimism, readiness to act, confidence in the mission's success;

"physical endurance, love of sports.

"I am sure that a person with such qualities is worthy of bearing the lofty title of citizen of the Soviet Union, and of living, creating, and being a hero in our times and in the 21st century."

In my reply to the Siberian students I briefly presented my point of view, tested by many years of experience. I hope that the young people will agree with it. The essence of what I said in the letter about qualities every Soviet citizen should have can be reduced to the most important--the need for serving the motherland faithfully everywhere: at the shock construction sites of the Tenth and subsequent five-year plans; at industrial enterprises and in agricultural production; in schools and in scientific institutions; in the ranks of our valorous armed forces.

Conclusion

Our motherland advanced centuries since the victory of Great October. A society of a sort that mankind had never seen before was created in the USSR under the guidance of the Leninist party. It has been 60 years now that the great energy of the liberated people has created miracles. In a historically short period of time Czarist Russia, an extremely backward country of impoverished, underprivileged laborers and mass illiteracy, transformed into one of the most powerful and progressive countries of the world enjoying a powerful modern economy, highly developed science, sophisticated technology, and an unprecedented level of public morale, education, and culture. Millions upon millions of citizens are participating more extensively and actively in the management of the affairs of their state and their society. A powerful, indefatigable, and prideful Soviet people, a warrior people, a working people, a hero people, welded together into ideological-political unity, have taken shape through joint labor and struggle.

In his report "Great October and Mankind's Progress" CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said: "Every Soviet citizen enjoys all of the rights and liberties which permit him to take an active part in political life. Every Soviet citizen has the possibility for selecting his life's path in accordance with his calling and capabilities, and for being useful to the fatherland and his nation."

Decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress have opened up grand prospects for growth in the material and spiritual wealth of the Soviet people. These decisions produced a tremendous upswing in the creative energy of the Soviet people. "We will do everything that has been planned!" they say, thus

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expressing their avid approval of the CPSU's Leninist course and uniting even more closely about it.

Throughout its entire life the Soviet Union has persistently and consistently fought for peace and for international security. And I am happy to say that the Soviet people are now living in their fourth decade of peace, and that the struggle to eliminate the threat of war, mainly nuclear war, for disarmament, and for relaxation of international tension is becoming the dominant trend of modern peaceful development. Behind all of this lies the titanic labor of the Soviet people, and the tremendous activities of the party, its Central Committee, and personally that of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev.

The Soviet young have been graced with the tremendous fortune of living in the country of Great October. Young men and women have unlimited possibilities for study, work, and thorough development. Their creative inspiration, their spiritual zeal, elicited by the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, have found their expression in the patriotic movement "The Enthusiasm and Creativity of the Young for the Five-Year Plan of Effectiveness and Quality!"

The Komsomol declared itself to be the shock detachment of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, and it has initiated a competition among the young people for the honorary right to sign the Report to the CPSU Central Committee in the 60th Anniversary of October. The winners of this competition will be photographed beside the legendary Aurora. The Baykal-Amur Rail Trunkline, the Kama Motor Vehicle Plant, West Siberia and the Nonchernozem--more than 100 all-union shock construction projects--have become the new focuses of Komsomol acts of heroism.

Young army and navy soldiers met the 60th anniversary of Great October with honor. Komsomol members and all soldiers of the armed forces believe it their duty to capitalize on the patriotic upsurge in the country and give all-out assistance to commanders, political agencies, and party organizations in nurturing devoted defenders of the motherland, and in improving combat skills and gaining proficiency with the weapons and combat equipment.

During the writing of this booklet I became more and more convinced that it would be impossible to discuss the topic I selected in detail because it embraces practically all aspects of study, labor, and the day-to-life of our young people, our soldiers. Please forgive me, dear readers, if my discussion is at times incomplete or if I have left something out.

"There is more to life than living and dying." The words of this Russian saying are accurate and valid. Also contemporary and valid is the assertion "Live to Serve the Motherland," inasmuch as it embodies the entire meaning of life of every Soviet individual.

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We, the veterans of war and labor, are often asked: What would you wish the young people of the 1970's and subsequent years to be like? I think that readers will find the answer to this question in this booklet. Let me state it here once again: courageous, interested and diligent, knowledgeable and enduring, smart and tactful, honest and modest, happy and kind, disciplined, energetic, faithful sons and daughters of our motherland!

Dear youngmen and women, our remarkable youth! You are the successors of the senior generation, and the future of the Soviet fatherland belongs to you. Therefore always love the socialist motherland, serve it faithfully, preserve and multiply its riches, steadfastly defend its honor and independence, and devote all the passion of your spirit and all of your thoughts and acts to the great work of grandiose peaceful creation--to development of communism!

The young builders of communism are faced by wide horizons offering much promise. Interesting, inspiring work aimed at perpetuating the heroic past, building a fabulous present, and preparing for a glorious future awaits the young soldier. And there can be no doubt that all young men and women and all Soviet soldiers will continue to remain faithful to the moral ideals of the Communist Party, nurture the best human and professional qualities, and live, study, and work in communist, Leninist style in all areas!
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