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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

(FOUO 7/82)



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USSR REPORT
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CONTENTS

ARMED FORCES

Excerpts From Book on Higher Military-Political Schools (V POMOSHCH' POSTUPAYUSHCHEMU V VISSHEYE VOYENNO- POLITICHESKOYE UCHILISHCHE, 1981)	1
Excerpts From Book on the 'Neman' Training Exercise (NEMAN--"NEMAN", 1980)	13

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ARMED FORCES

EXCERPTS FROM BOOK ON HIGHER MILITARY-POLITICAL SCHOOLS

Moscow V POMOSHCH' POSTUPAYUSHCHEMU V VYSSHEYE VOYENNO-POLITICHESKOYE UCHILISHCHE in Russian 1981 (signed to press 31 Mar 81) pp 1-2, 13-28, 96

[Annotation, table of contents and selected chapters from book "An Aid to the Higher Military-Political School Applicant", compiled and authored by Colonel B. N. Voskresenskiy and Colonel V. M. Sementsov, Voenizdat, 50,000 copies, 96 pages]

[Text] This manual contains a list of the higher military-political schools and their addresses, it explains the conditions and order of admission to them, and it describes the programs of the entrance examinations and the testing procedures.

It is intended for those who have decided to devote their lives to the honorable and noble profession of officer-political worker.

Contents	Page
Successors of the Legendary Commissars	3
Which School to Choose?	13
Admission Rules and the Order of Selection, Preparation and Entry	
into Higher Military-Political Schools	18
Conditions for Admission	-
Order of Candidate Selection	19
Preparation of Candidates for Entrance Examinations	22
Entrance Examinations	23
The Order of Enrolling Candidates as School Students	25
The Programs in USSR History, Russian Language and Literature,	
Geography and Mathematics in Preparation for Competitive Entrance	
Examinations of Higher Military-Political Schools, and Some Advice	
on the Testing Procedures	28
The Program in USSR History	-
The Program in Russian Language and Literature	67
The Program in Geography	76
The Program in Mathematics	84
Literature	96

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Which School to Choose?

Higher military-political schools prepare officer-political workers for all arms of service and branches of troops. Thus on firmly resolving to become a military man and a political officer, and to enter a higher military-political school for this purpose, the future student must clearly determine the arm of service or branch of troops in which he would wish to serve.

Examples of higher military-political schools which prepare political personnel for all arms of service and branches of troops are:

Novosibirskoye vyssheye voyenno-politicheskoye obshchevoyskovoye uchilishche imeni 60-letiya Velikogo Oktyabrya [Novosibirsk Higher Military-Political Combined-Arms School imeni 60-Letiye Velikogo Oktyabrya], 630103, Novosibirsk, 103;

Simferopol'skoye vyssheye voyenno-politicheskoye stroitel'noye uchilishche [Simferopol' Higher Military-Political Construction School], 333037, Simferopol', 37;

L'vovskoye vyssheye voyenno-politicheskoye ordena Krasnoy Zvezdy uchilishche [L'vov Order of the Red Banner Higher Military-Political School], 290028, L'vov, 28;

Leningradskoye vyssheye voyenno-politicheskoye uchilishche protivovozdushnoy oborony [Leningrad Higher Air Defense Military-Political School], 198324, Leningrad, L-324;

Kurganskoye vyssheye voyenno-politicheskoye aviatsionnoye uchilishche [Kurgan Higher Military-Political Aviation School], 640025, Kurgan, 25 (oblast).

Information of greater detail on the names of higher military-political schools and on the specialties political officers can study in these schools can be obtained from the headquarters of military units and from military commissariats.

It is evident from the names themselves of the higher military-political schools that each of them trains political officers in specific specialties: combined-arms, tank, construction, naval and so on. For example the Novosibirsk VVPU [Higher Military-Political School] trains political workers for motorized rifle subunits, the Simferopol' school trains personnel for construction units, the Leningrad school trains personnel for the air defense troops and the Kurgan school trains personnel for air subunits. Some higher military-political schools provide instruction in two specialties. The same VVPU may train political officers, as an example, for tank and artillery subunits or for engineer troops and signal troops.

Graduates of all higher military-political schools except L'vov are appointed deputy commanders for political affairs in companies, batteries and subunits equal to them. Graduates of the L'vov VVPU work in cultural and educational institutions and on the editorial staffs of military newspapers.

What disciplines are studied in these schools? A large part of the training time is devoted to the social sciences. Students study CPSU history, Marxist-Leninist philosophy, scientific communism, political economics, USSR history, the history of the international communist, worker's and national liberation movement, USSR

international relations and foreign policy, scientific atheism and the fundamentals of Marxist-Leninist ethics and aesthetics, the theory and practice of party-political work, military psychology and pedagogics, Russian, Soviet and foreign literature and other subjects.

The social sciences develop the student's communist philosophy and nurture his ability to withstand all forms of bourgeois influence, and they are the foundation of a scientific understanding of the essence and nature of modern warfare, of the laws and trends of armed conflict, of the development of military affairs, of personnel training and indoctrination and of the ways of achieving victory over the enemy. The ideological conviction of the soldiers is the foundation of steadfastness, and the door to heroism. Ideologically persuaded soldiers will never lose confidence in the triumph of the cause in behalf of which they fight and shed their blood, no matter the sort of trials and deprivations they must endure. Confirmation of this can be found in the heroic history of our party, the working class, the Soviet people and their armed forces.

If he is to be a good indoctrinator, if he is to knowledgeably penetrate into all aspects of the life and combat activity of his subunit, and if he is to enjoy respect and authority among the personnel, the political worker must possess firm and sound knowledge in military affairs. "As indoctrinators," said M. I. Kalinin, political workers "must not only know how to give good speeches and they must not only be able to answer questions posed by soldiers, but they must also be their example in political and moral respects and have a complete knowledge of military affairs."*

Students of higher military-political schools acquire military knowledge by studying many military-technical disciplines: tactics, fire training, materiel and the rules of operating combat equipment, topography and others. They work with communication resources, and they improve themselves physically and in drill. Each student learns to drive a motor vehicle and, additionally in a naval school, a motorboat.

Mastery of modern complex combat equipment requires a firm knowledge of the exact sciences: higher mathematics, physics, electronics and theoretical mechanics. Study of a foreign language (English, German or French) is mandatory for students of higher military-political schools. The number of these disciplines and their volume are determined for each VVPU in accordance with the particular military specialty for which the political worker is trained.

Higher military-political schools are staffed by experienced officers and highly qualified instructors. They are candidates and doctors of sciences and lecturers. After graduating from military academies, they served for a long period of time in the troops, where they acquired a considerable amount of practical experience, and now they are sharing their knowledge with students.

All of the conditions have been created for the students to study successfully. The schools possess spacious auditoriums, well outfitted classrooms, study rooms and laboratories, libraries and reading rooms, and a modern base for field lessons. *Kalinin, M. I., "O Kommunisticheskom vospitanii i voinskom dolge" [Communist Indoctrination and Military Duty], Moscow, 1967, p 415.

3
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The cultural and educational work done at the schools is large in amount and substantial in content. Amateur art collectives have been created in every subunit. Various circles, art and literary societies and culture universities function under the sponsorship of the school clubs. Films are shown and visits to theaters, museums and exhibitions and meetings with scientists, writers, actors and other scientists and artists are organized regularly for the students. Old Bolsheviks, heroes of the Civil and Great Patriotic wars, veterans of the Soviet Armed Forces and the leading industrial and agricultural workers speak to them.

The schools have established close ties with enterprises, institutions, schools, institutes and local party and Komsomol organizations. Future political workers sponsor many schools and Pioneer detachments, they lead clubs of young friends of the Soviet Army and Navy, they conduct lessons in military defense circles, and they conduct lectures and discussions on the combat traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces for young people.

Much attention is devoted to mass sports in the schools. The students participate in various sports sections (soccer, volleyball, hockey, gymnastics, sharpshooting, skiing, boxing, weight-lifting and so on); there are stadiums, gymnasiums, athletic fields, ski areas and water sports stations available to them. During their years of study in the schools, most students become outstanding athletes and comprehensively trained ranked sportsmen.

Good housing and personal conditions have been created for the students. Schools possess spacious, brightly lit dormitory-barracks, dining halls, student cafeterias and various shopping centers. Every subunit has a lounge with television sets and radios, and games, musical instruments, newspapers and journals are available.

The conditions for study, the leisure opportunities and personal conditions are approximately the same in all higher military-political schools. They are all located in the country's major economic and cultural centers, in large cities. But this should not be the main factor to be considered when choosing a school. The right choice would be made only in the event that the young man has thought seriously about the nature of his work after school, its significance, the difficulties and deprivations of military service and the particular features of a political officer's work in a particular arm of service or branch of troops.

What are the conditions for admission to higher military-political schools? Whom may they accept?

Admission Rules and the Order of Selection, Preparation and Entry Into Higher Military-Political Schools

Conditions for Admission

Higher military-political schools are classified as being among the country's higher educational institutions.

The term of study in schools is 4 years.

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A graduate of a higher military-political school is awarded the military rank of lieutenant and an all-unior diploma attesting to completion of a higher military-political education.

The schools accept privates, seamen, NCOs and extended-service petty officers, graduates of Suvorov military and Nakhimov naval schools and young civilians from 17 to 21 years old, extended-service servicemen not more than 23 years old after 2 years of extended service, and seagoing and shore-based warrant officers not more than 25 years old who had served at warrant officer or officer posts for not less than 2 years; such persons must have declared their desire to become officers, they must possess high moral, political and work qualities, they must have a completed secondary education, they must have received positive performance reports in service, work or study, and they must be of suitable health for study in school. Military-political schools accept only CPSU members and candidate members and Komsomol members who have displayed an interest in political work, on recommendation of political organs of the Soviet Army and Navy or rayon (city) Komsomol committees.

The age of candidates, the time of service in the rank of shore-based and seagoing warrant officer and the time of service and the post presently occupied are reckoned as of 1 September of the year of admission to the school.

Order of Candidate Selection

Servicemen desiring to enter a higher military-political school must submit an application up the chain of command over the signature of the commander of the military unit. The following information must be provided in this application: rank, last name, first name and patronymic, the post presently occupied, year and month of birth, education and the name of the higher military-political school into which entry is desired. The following are attached to the application: a secondary education document (a notarized copy of an attestation, record, certificate or diploma), a party performance report (for CPSU members and candidates) or a Komsomol performance report (for Komsomol members), an employment performance report, three certified photographs (without headwear, 4.5x6 cm), an autobiography and a copy of the birth certificate. First-term and extended-service servicemen additionally attach the following to the application: autobiography, service performance report, record of service card and a copy of the birth certificate.

First-term and extended-service servicemen must submit their application prior to 25 March of the year of admission, while shore-based and seagoing warrant officers must submit it not later than 1 December of the year preceding the year of admission.

On receiving applications from servicemen declaring their desire to enter a military-political school, unit commanders, institution and service chiefs and their deputies for political affairs must interview each applicant; medical appointments are made for those who satisfy the conditions for admission with the purpose of determining their medical fitness for study in a military educational institution.

Documents are submitted up the chain of command to the political directorates (sections) of the districts, groups of forces, fleets, armies and flotillas, not

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later than 1 January of the year of admission to the school for shore-based and seagoing warrant officers and not later than 10 March for first-term and extended service servicemen.

Confirmed attestations are attached to the personal files of shore-based and seagoing warrant officers.

Political directorates carefully study the documents of nominated candidates, they determine whether or not these candidates satisfy the conditions for admission, and they arrive at a decision in relation to each candidate.

The decisions made by political directorates are brought to the awareness of shore-based and seagoing warrant officers not later than 1 February of the year of admission to the school, while first-term and extended-service servicemen are made aware of the decisions not later than 25 March.

Lists of shore-based and seagoing warrant officers selected for training are sent together with the documents and the decisions of the political directorates to the personnel organs of district, group of forces, fleet, army and flotilla political directorates by 1 February, while the documents of first-term and extended-service servicemen are sent to the appropriate higher military-political training institutions not later than 25 March.

Young civilians submit applications to the rayon military commissariat at the place of residence prior to 30 April of the year of admission.

The following are indicated in the application: last name, first name and patronymic of the applicant, the year and month of birth, home address and the name (and the profile in the L'vov VVPU) of the higher military-political school for which entry is desired. The following are attached to the application: autobiography, performance report from the place of work or study, party performance report (for CPSU members and candidates) or the Komsomol performance report (for Komsomol members), a secondary education document (students presently enrolled in secondary schools must submit a transcript of current grades), birth certificate, a certificate from the military medical commission indicating fitness for admission to an institution of higher education, and three certified photographs (without headwear, 4.5x6 cm).

The passport and the military card or draft registration card are presented to the admissions commission on arrival at the higher military-political school; students of secondary schools (vocational-technical schools, tekhnikums) must also furnish an attestation or diploma of secondary education.

Young people whose parents are servicemen or employees of the Soviet Army in the groups of forces must submit their applications for admission to military-political schools through the appropriate selection commissions of the groups of forces prior to March of the year of admission. The documents are drawn up and the candidates are sent to the schools by the commanders of the military units at the place of service or work of the parents.

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The rayon military commissariat thoroughly studies the documents of each candidate, interviews each candidate and then submits the names of persons satisfying the conditions of admission for examination by a medical commission to determine medical fitness for admission to school.

After candidates applying for school are examined by medical commissions, the documents of those deemed fit are submitted to the oblast (kray, city) military commissariat not later than 15 May.

The selection commissions of oblast (republic, kray, city) military commissariats also carefully and thoroughly examine the documents of the candidates submitted, interview them, subject them to another medical examination and announce their decision to them within 10 days. The documents of selected candidates are sent to the appropriate military schools by 1 June.

The deadlines for announcing the decision of the school chief on admission to the entrance examinations and the time applicants are to arrive for them are: 15 March for shore-based and seagoing warrant officers, and 15 April for first-term and extended-service servicemen, through the appropriate personnel organs of the political directorates which had selected the candidates for training; 1 July for young civilians, through oblast (kray, city, rayon) military commissariats.

The schools concurrently send lists of rejected candidates, indicating the reasons for rejection, and they return their documents.

The documents of graduates of Suvorov military and Nakhimov naval schools are submitted to higher military-political schools directly by the chiefs of these schools in accordance with their approved plans.

Servicemen who had formerly applied to a school but failed the entrance examinations or placed low in the competitive selection process may be included among the candidates for training and permitted to take entrance examinations in subsequent periods of admission to the school, but not more than three times.

Preparation of Candidates for Entrance Examinations

Preparation of serviceman candidates for entrance examinations is organized and supported by commanders of military units and chiefs of services (institutions) in accordance with the programs of the entrance examinations and the accompanying instructions on testing procedures.

The programs of entrance examinations in general educational disciplines are published annually by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education.

From the moment servicemen are approved as candidates for training, they are not to be reassigned, except when promoted to higher positions, they are not to be sent on long business trips, and when possible they are not to be assigned to various details on days off and holidays.

7
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Shore-based and seagoing warrant officers that are candidates for admission to a school are excused from commander lessons, using this time to prepare for the examinations. Moreover they are provided two free evenings a week on work days to prepare for the examinations.

Thirty-day training rallies are conducted in May-June in the garrisons and formations to prepare first-term and extended-service servicemen for the examinations.

Young civilians prepare for the entrance examinations on their own at their place of residence.

Travel orders are issued to servicemen for the entrance examinations by unit commanders and the chiefs of services and institutions in response to invitations from the school chiefs; travel is to be scheduled such that servicemen would arrive at the place of examination 5 days before examinations begin.

Prior to leaving for the entrance examinations, serviceman candidates must undergo repeat medical examination, they must make the change of command according to the established practices, but their names are not removed from the unit's rolls until they are registered as school students.

The medical log bearing the decisions of the military medical commission concerning the first and second medical examinations is either sealed and hand-carried by the serviceman or sent to the schools, to arrive there by the time of the serviceman's arrival.

All candidates arriving for the examinations are provided space in a dormitory (barracks), food, and training aids and literature.

Entrance Examinations

School candidates are given entrance examinations by examination commissions appointed by the school chiefs.

Entrance examination admissions commissions remain in session from 20 July to 20 August for shore-based and seagoing warrant officers and from 15 July to 5 August for first-term and extended-service servicemen and young civilians.

Traveling admissions commissions are created by order of the USSR Minister of Defense each year in the groups of forces and in some military districts for the purposes of admitting applicants to the graduate examinations. Traveling admissions commissions remain in session from 5 June to 5 July.

Military servicemen must arrive at the working locations of the traveling admissions commissions 5 days before their work begins.

Before the start of the entrance examinations all candidates must undergo medical examination by the school's military medical commission. Candidates deemed unfit for training in the school by this commission are not permitted to take the entrance examinations, and they are sent back to their former place of service (young civilians are returned to the military commissariats).

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Applicants to higher military-political schools take entrance examinations in the following disciplines:

USSR history (oral);

Russian language and literature (written composition on one out of three or four topics from the secondary school literature program and sociopolitical topics);

geography (oral);

mathematics (oral).

Applicants to the L'vov Higher Military-Political School take an oral examination in Russian language and literature in place of the oral examination in mathematics; they also undergo an interview within the specialty of their chosen profile--journalism or cultural-educational work. Candidates that have not been interviewed cannot take the entrance examination.

Applicants to military schools who had studied Russian language in the secondary school under the national school program may write a brief statement or a dictated text in place of a composition.

In addition, candidates must undergo certain practical tests to determine physical fitness: Servicemen must perform the exercises of the USSR Armed Forces Military-Sports Complex, while conscripts and young civilians must perform the exercises of the All-Union "Ready for Labor and Defense of the USSR" Physical Culture Complex.

Persons who have graduated secondary school with a gold medal or received a diploma with honors on graduating from secondary special educational institutions need take only one examination (oral or written) of the established entrance examinations at the discretion of the higher military-political school to which they are applying. If they score a grade of "5" in the examination on this discipline, they are released from further entrance examinations and enjoy preferential selection for admission to the school in comparison of other persons who had scored "5" in all entrance examinations. If they score "4" or "3", these candidates must take the examinations in the rest of the disciplines included in the entrance examinations.

The name of the discipline and form of the entrance examination are determined for the above-indicated individuals by the schools, and they are announced to them together with the decision permitting them to take the entrance examinations.

Oral examinations are heard by not less than two instructors.

Candidates who receive an unsatisfactory grade in one of the subjects of the examinations are not permitted to take further examinations, and they are returned to their former places of service or to the military commissariats at their places of residence.

If an individual receives an unsatisfactory grade, he cannot take the examinations again with the purpose of raising his grade.

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If due to health or some other reasons the candidate is unable to take the examinations, he is obligated to report this to the examination commission before the examinations start. Candidates who fail to appear at one of the examinations at the scheduled time without valid reasons are not permitted to take further examinations.

Military servicemen returned to their units from the entrance examinations for unworthy behavior or for refusing to take the examinations for no valid reasons may later on be included among candidates for training by decision of the command, though not earlier than after 2 years.

The results of the entrance examinations are scored separately for each subject with grades of "5" (five), "4" (four), "3" (three) and "2" (two).

The Order of Enrolling Candidates as School Students

The admissions commission makes a decision to enroll candidates as students or to return them to their places of origin on the basis of the documents and a personal interview with each candidate separately.

Graduates of Suvorov military and Nakhimov naval schools are enrolled in higher military-political schools without taking the entrance examinations.

Graduates of Suvorov military and Nakhimov naval schools seeking admission to the L'vov Higher Military-Political School are interviewed in their specialty by the selected department--journalism or cultural and educational work.

In addition, persons who had graduated successfully (with grades of "good" and "excellent") from the first and subsequent years of civilian institutions of higher education in specialties corresponding to the profile and specialty of the given school, and persons who satisfy other requirements for admission to military educational institutions may be enrolled for the school's first year course without entrance examinations, after undergoing the appropriate interview.

The following are accepted ahead of competing applicants if they receive positive grades in the entrance examinations:

persons awarded orders and medals of the Soviet Union for personal acts of heroism or for high achievements in combat and political training;

first-term and extended-service servicemen who had been outstanding soldiers of combat and political training (for not less than a year) and who had been declared to be so in an order published by the military unit.

Candidates who successfully passed the entrance examinations are accepted on a competitive basis.

Competitive selection of candidates from among shore-based and seagoing warrant officers and first-term and extended-service servicemen is conducted separately from young civilians, on the basis of the total number of points, as determined from the grades received in the entrance examinations and the arithmetic average of grades in all disciplines, as shown on the secondary education document.

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If the applicant possesses several secondary education documents, he is given the right to choose the document to be considered in competitive selection.

For persons who furnish secondary education documents (diplomas, certificates) that do not show grades for specific disciplines, the arithmetic grade point average is designated as "3" (three). If a diploma with honors is furnished, the arithmetic grade point average is designated as "5" (five).

Among persons with the same total number of points in disciplines covered in the entrance examinations, the following are shown preference in competitive admission to a school:

shore-based and seagoing warrant officers having considerable practical experience in the service or having had long experience as political workers, and first-term and extended-service servicemen who have a class rating in their specialty;

candidates submitted for training on the basis of all-union Komsomol passes issued by formation (unit) political sections or by rayon and city Komsomol committees, and leading laborers and kolkhoz farmers;

graduates of specialized boarding schools and youth military-patriotic schools;

young civilians who had been awarded honorable mentions after graduating from secondary school, who present documents attesting to active participation in school and other circles and in Olympiads, competitions and reviews sponsored by institutions and organizations of higher education, and who achieve the best results in a physical fitness test satisfying the requirements of the "Ready for Labor and Defense of the USSR" complex.

Enrollment of candidates as students is announced in orders published by the school chiefs.

Serviceman candidates who are not accepted in the competitive selection process are returned to their former places of service, while young civilians are returned to the rayon (city) military commissariats at their places of residence. The personal files and other documents of these candidates are returned to the appropriate military units, services (institutions) and military commissariats together with the reasons for rejection.

School chiefs and chairmen of traveling admissions commissions have the right to return the following candidates to their places of service or military commissariats: those not satisfying the conditions for admission and unsuited in relation to health--before the start of the entrance examinations; persons receiving unsatisfactory grades--in the course of the examinations; persons committing breaches of discipline and refusing to take examinations--before examinations start, and in their course.

Shore-based and seagoing warrant officers admitted to the school are enrolled for study as of 1 September, while young civilians and first-term and extended-service servicemen are enrolled as of 5 August.

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During their term of study, each year the students are given two-week vacations in winter, and on completing the school year they are given a month's leave with paid round-trip travel.

Now let us acquaint ourselves with what each person who has decided to apply for a higher military-political school must know for the entrance examinations.

The Programs in USSR History, Russian Language and Literature, Geography and Mathematics in Preparation for Competitive Entrance Examinations of Higher Military-Political Schools, and Some Advice on the Testing Procedures

The competitive entrance examinations of higher military-political schools are taken in accordance with programs approved by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education for each school year. Therefore the programs presented here are only typical ones, in which certain changes taking account of the particular year of admission to the institution of higher education may be possible.

Literature

Recognized secondary school textbooks and training manuals make up the basic literature used to prepare for entrance examinations in higher military-political schools.

Handbooks for applicants to institutions of higher education may be used additionally, to include:

1. Rozental', D. E., "Russkiy yazyk. Posobiye dlya postupayushchikh v vuzy" [Russian Language. Handbook for Applicants to Institutions of Higher Education], Moscow, 1972, 1975.
2. Mal'kov, V. V., "Posobiye po istorii SSSR dlya postupayushchikh v vuzy" [Handbook on USSR History for Applicants to Institutions of Higher Education], Moscow, 1979.
3. "Politicheskaya i voyennaya geografiya" [Political and Military Geography], Moscow, 1980.
4. Dorofeyev, G. V., Potapov, M. K., and Rozov, N. Kh., "Posobiye po matematike dlya postupayushchikh v vuzy" [Mathematics Handbook for Applicants to Institutions of Higher Education], Moscow, 1976.
5. Zorin, V. V., "Posobiye po matematike dlya postupayushchikh v vuzy" [Mathematics Handbook for Applicants to Institutions of Higher Education], Moscow, 1973.

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EXCERPTS FROM BOOK ON THE 'NEMAN' TRAINING EXERCISE

Vilnius NEMAN--"NEMAN" in Russian 1980 (signed to press 27 Jun 80) pp 1,4-6,23-31, 267-269,271

[Annotation, editorial board, table of contents, foreword and the chapter "A School of Courage, Endurance and Military Proficiency" from book "The Neman River--the 'Neman' Training Exercise" compiled by V. Trushin, Izdatel'stvo "Mintis", 20,000 copies, 271 pages]

[Text] This collection of articles, reports, essays and sketches is devoted to the "Neman" troop exercise of the Red Banner Baltic Military District. It describes the difficult but honorable service of the soldiers.

It is intended for young people and soldiers of the Soviet Army.

Editorial Board

P. P. Grishkyavichus, A. M. Mayorov, I. A. Gubin, V. V. Trushin, V. V. Belyakov, A. V. Smolyanko

Contents	Page
Foreword	5
Battle Report to the People and Party	7
To the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev	9
A Cause of All People	11
A School of Courage, Endurance and Military Proficiency	23
The Decisive Prerequisite of Success	32

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On the Eve	45
Greetings	47
Multiply the Combat Glory	50
In the Exercise--Like the Frontline Soldiers	53
Neman--"Neman"	54
The People are Proud of the Army	59
At the Neman in '44	61
The Intensity of Combat Training Grows	63
Following the Compass of Tradition	63
In Word and in Deed	71
With High Inspiration	72
In a Spirit of Rivalry	73
There, Where the Nyavezhis Flows	75
The Place of the Exercise--the Neman	76
Crossing the Contaminated Zone	78
With the First Rocket	80
Pontoneers Prepare for the Exercise	81
A Necessary Individual	84
We Are Mastering the Art of Reconnaissance	87
The First Steps of Dzerzhinsk Airmen	89
High Morale	93
Preparing Ourselves Comprehensively	95
Crossing the River Boldly	98
Traditions in Combat Formation	101
Troops Advance to the Exercise Region	109
On the Lines of Military Glory	114
In a Land of Revolutionary Combat and Labor Glory	117
Following a New Path	119
...And the Battle Begins	127
A Diary of the Decisive Events (TASS Reports)	128
On a Night Fighting Patrol	135
On Land and in the Air	137
Pilots Conduct Reconnaissance	140
In a Complex, Tense Situation	143

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In the Direction of the Main Thrust	146
Using an Enveloping Maneuver	155
With the First Attack, the First Rocket	157
An Accurate, Inescapable Blow	159
Like the Frontline Soldiers	161
A Stable Defense--the Key to Victory	163
They Distinguished Themselves in the Exercise	165
Reliance on Boldness	166
Winged Infantry Attacks	168
At the Water's Edge	171
From the Notebook of PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA And KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA Journalists	174
The Test of Combat	175
A Generation of New Warriors	182
Journalists of the Soviet Baltic Report	187
Ready to Defend the Motherland	187
The Baton of Heroism	193
The Trial	202
The Paths of the Fathers, the Roads of the Sons	205
The Sparks of Combat Party-Political Work	206
The Word and Deed of Communists	206
On the Agenda--Attack	208
Get-Together at the Club	210
Inseparable Unity	212
Beside a Hero	213
Recognizing Responsibility	216
Political Hour in the Company	218
An Agitation Brigade is Created	219
The Affairs and Concerns of an Agitprop Group	220
The Example Set by a Staff Communist	221
The Pennant Goes to the Best Driver	221
A Star on the Gun Barrel	222
Get-Together With a Veteran	223
A Concert in the Field	224

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Red Stars	224
In Moments of Silence	224
The Password of the Generations	226
Introducing Accumulated Experience Into Practice	228
For Our Soviet Motherland	233
Warm Gratefulness	243
Conclusion	262

Foreword

Between 23 and 27 July 1979 troops of the Baltic Military District conducted an exercise code-named "Neman" in the vicinity of Panevezhis, Taurage and Alitus. The total strength of troops that had participated in the exercises was about 25,000 men.

The purpose of the exercise was to improve field skills and find out how well the actions of different branches of troops are coordinated. Units and subunits of the ground troops and the air force were brought in for the exercise.

The "Neman" exercise was the battle report of soldiers of the Red Banner Baltic Military District to their Leninist party. It clearly demonstrated the indestructible power of the Soviet Army, the proficiency of the commanders, the coordination and high operational preparedness of staffs and the outstanding skills of soldiers in all branches of troops. The Soviet people, who followed the progress of the exercise by way of central television and radio, the newspapers and journals with great interest, experienced a natural feeling of pride for our armed forces, which are honorably fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, the provisions of the USSR Constitution concerning the socialist fatherland's defense and the defense directives of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev.

Born of Great October to protect the young Republic of the Soviets, to defend the just cause of the workers and peasants, the Soviet Army was and continues to be one with the flesh and blood of our Soviet people. It graced itself with unfading glory in the years of the Civil War and the struggle against foreign military intervention, and it defended the honor and independence of the motherland in the years of the Great Patriotic War. The immortal heroism of millions of our army's warriors will stand as a permanent example for future generations.

Our armed forces enjoy the complete trust of the laborers and the sincere respect of the people. During the "Neman" exercise the Soviet people addressed the soldiers of the Red Banner Baltic Military District with words of love and gratefulness, wishing them further successes in improving their combat proficiency. And this is quite natural. The people and the army have the same goals and tasks--ensuring the country's security and strengthening its defense capability.

For entire generations of Soviet people, army service has been and continues to be the most useful, fruitful school of courage, a school of acquisition of high moral

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qualities and, last but not least, a school of proficiency. Within its ranks, the army is nurturing avid patriots of the Soviet motherland, and internationalists devoted to the cause of communism.

In the Accountability Report to the 25th CPSU Congress, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized the enormous role played by our army in indoctrinating the Soviet people. "Young people," he said, "come into the soldierly family with no experience in life. But they return from the army as people who have graduated from a school of endurance and discipline, as people who have obtained technical and professional knowledge and political training."

The "Neman" exercise was one of the lessons of this school. It was a hard lesson, one requiring its participants to exert their spiritual and physical strengths, their will and their endurance. It was an instructive lesson of moral-psychological maturity. It was a memorable lesson of communing with the heroic traditions of the fathers and grandfathers who, 35 years ago, annihilated select divisions of Hitler's Wehrmacht on the banks of the Neman.

The authors of this collection--commanders, political workers and journalists from central and local newspapers--make it their objective to describe the soldiers of the Red Banner Baltic Military District to the general reader. Let mothers and fathers get to know their sons better. Let peers look more carefully into the eyes of their comrades in uniform. Let young girls take joy in their fiances and friends. "The harshness of our times," said L. I. Brezhnev, "the immutable laws of the struggle between the classes, and primarily imperialism's aspiration to oppress, to enslave nations and to wage wars demand from us, as well as all people fighting for peace, socialism, liberty and independence, that some part of the nation--the strongest and most active at that--sacrifice its labor, its wisdom and its talent...to the cause of armed defense of our fatherland" (Brezhnev, L. I., "Na strazh. mira i sotsializma" [Standing Guard Over Peace and Socialism], Moscow, 1979, p 107).

This book is about you and for you, soldier. This book is for you, young man. This book is for all to whom the ideals of peace and communism, the motherland and liberty are precious. The book pays homage to the soldiers of 1979. It calls upon us to display even greater energy and effort in the struggle to strengthen the fighting power of the Soviet Armed Forces and the defense capabilities of the beloved fatherland.

"A School of Courage, Endurance and Military Proficiency," by Army General A. M. Mayorov, Troop Commander, Red Banner Baltic Military District

Occupied in peaceful creative labor, the Soviet people are successfully implementing the socioeconomic program of the 10th Five-Year Plan. Socialist industry is developing dynamically, and major steps are being taken to transform agriculture into a highly developed sector of the economy. The material and cultural standard of living of the Soviet people is constantly rising.

Strong and unshakeable is the international authority of our state. All honest people of the globe see the Soviet Union as a consistent and persistent champion of peace, friendship and equitable cooperation between countries. Signed in

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Vienna, the SALT-II treaty between the USSR and the USA was the result of the untiring and principled struggle of our socialist state for detente and of consistent pursuit of a peace-loving foreign policy course charted by congresses of our party, a course which, as Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said, we intend to follow in the future as well.

But at the same time the Soviet people clearly recognize that although the possibilities available to the aggressive circles of imperialism have now been severely restricted, its reactionary class essence remains as before. The enemies of detente are still strong; they are now operating and, moreover, quite aggressively. Centers of war danger still exist, and the arms race has not at all ceased. The present Chinese leadership is aligning itself with the darkest forces of aggression and war. This is why high alertness, combat readiness, training and political awareness of the armed defenders of the motherland are such powerful factors of restraint in today's restless world, factors standing in opposition to all aggressive forces.

This is understood well by soldiers of the Red Banner Baltic Military District--one of the combat detachments of the Soviet Armed Forces. This is why they perceived, as a sign of the enormous trust of the motherland, the Communist Party and the Soviet government, the message that between 23 and 27 July 1979 the Red Banner Baltic Military District was to undergo a troop exercise code-named "Neman" in the vicinity of Panevezhis, Taurage and Alitus.

We can now say that this goal--improving field skills and determining how well the actions of different branches of troops are coordinated--has been fully achieved.

Such exercises, conducted in accordance with the plans for combat and political training, are important events in the life of units taking part in them, and in the life of the district and the armed forces as a whole. They are validly viewed as an important examination of combat maturity before the motherland and the Communist Party, and before all Soviet people. And we are proud that this difficult examination was passed with honor. By their practical deeds on the fields of the training battles, the district's privates, NCOs, warrant officers and officers once again confirmed the high evaluation given to the Soviet Army in the CPSU Central Committee decree "On Further Improvement of Ideological and Political Indoctrination," which called the Soviet Army a remarkable school of labor and military proficiency, of moral purity and courage, of patriotism and comradeship.

The great unity of the army and people manifested itself with new force during the preparations for and conduct of the "Neman" troop exercise. Hundreds of letters and telegrams were received by the district's military council and political directorate, by commanders and political workers and by the editorial board of the district newspaper. Party and soviet executives, labor collectives and many citizens of the Soviet Baltic republics and of Kaliningradskaya Oblast wished the soldiers success in their missions, good health and personal happiness. Emotion-filled get-togethers were held with residents and with veterans of the civil and Great Patriotic wars in the exercise area.

The participants of the "Neman" exercise met with executives of the party and soviet organs of the Soviet Baltic republics and Kaliningradskaya Oblast in a lively, warm and cordial atmosphere. Participants of this meeting included:

P. P. Grishkyavichus, first secretary, Lithuanian SSR Communist Party Central Committee; A. E. Voss, first secretary, Latvian SSR Communist Party Central Committee; K. G. Vayno, first secretary, Estonian SSR Communist Party Central Committee; N. S. Konovalov, first secretary, Kaliningradskaya Oblast CPSU Committee; P. Ya. Strautmanis, chairman, Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR; Yu. Ya. Ruben, chairman, Latvian SSR Council of Ministers; I. K. Strelkov, second secretary, Latvian SSR Communist Party Central Committee; I. A. Anderson and E. K. Peterson, secretaries, Latvian SSR Communist Party Central Committee; Ya. Ya. Vagris, first secretary, Riga City Committee of the Latvian SSR Communist Party; division directors of the party central committees of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, soviet and public officials, and mass media and propaganda workers.

All of this imparted new strength to the soldiers and elicited a burning desire to fulfill their missions in an excellent manner, to exert their moral and physical strengths to the fullest in the exercise and to use modern equipment and weapons proficiently in combat.

Another typical feature of the "Neman" exercise was that it occurred on territory where 35 years ago, soldiers of the Great Patriotic War destroyed the German invaders in the course of their liberation of the Soviet Baltic. One of the troop units which helped to liberate these places was the Guards Motorized Rifle Proletarian Moscow-Minsk Order of Lenin, Twice-Awarded Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov Division, the battle pennant of which has been scorched by the flames of numerous engagements. The exalted Hero of the Soviet Union title was awarded to many officers, NCOs and enlisted men for courage and valor displayed during crossing of the Neman River in July 1944. They include senior lieutenants Dmitriy Yefremovich Kudinov and Yefim Maksimovich Nihayev, Captain Pavel Petrovich Molodykh, Major Georgiy Trofimovich Sedov, Private 1st Class Aleksey Alekseyevich Koloskov and Sergeant Turgun Akhmedov.

And it was quite natural that during the preparation for and in the course of the exercise, the commanders, political organs and the party and Komsomol organizations of the units and subunits did a great deal of work to publicize the glorious combat traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces, to study their combat experience and to make creative use of it in application to today's requirements. The deeds of the frontline heroes and their whole-hearted love for the motherland became, to every private, NCO, warrant officer and officer, that ideal, that clear reference point in relation to which they measured themselves during the training battles and engagements.

And there were more than enough possibilities in the "Neman" exercise to display all moral, psychological, physical and combat qualities. The training battles unfolded over a broad front, they were highly dynamic, and the actions taken by the "North" and "South" to achieve their goals were decisive. The fighting went on day and night, in complex weather conditions, and in a situation as close to that of real combat as possible.

Rain fell every day. The marshy forests in which the troops had to operate became almost impassable even to modern equipment. And if we consider that the troops had to advance cross-country, we gain a clear impression of the trials that fell to the lot of the drivers and driver-mechanics of the combat vehicles and to the

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soldiers of engineer subunits which had to ensure prompt and covert regrouping of the units and subunits so that a superiority over the opposing side could be achieved.

Both the "South" and the "North" continually escalated their effort and introduced more and more fresh reserves in their attempt at exploiting even the most rudimentary successes. In many sectors the combat assumed the nature of meeting engagements. All of this requires commanders of all ranks to deeply analyze the situation, to make grounded decisions competently and quickly and to use the most expedient methods of organizing combat in short time and with high quality. And as we know, this requires a good knowledge of the enemy and of his tactics. It requires anticipation of the enemy in maneuver of fire and troops, creation of a situation that is disadvantageous to him, imposition of one's will upon him and retention of initiative to the end. A duel with a strong, well equipped opponent can be won by a commander having perfect mastery over the hard and complex job of scientifically organizing coordination among all attached and supporting subunits and artfully controlling them in the dynamics of day and night combat.

It should be noted that in the "Neman" exercise all commanders confidently controlled the subunits and units subordinated to them, and they all displayed high organizational capabilities and a deep understanding of the nature of modern combined-arms combat. They include battalion commanders Captain V. Gavrilov and Major V. Drizhuk, artillery battalion commander Captain S. Drozdov, company and battery commanders Lieutenant V. Zavertalenko, senior lieutenants A. Kasymov and B. Suvorov and Captain V. Shvets, platoon commanders senior lieutenants G. Tupikov and A. Pestov, and many others.

The twice-awarded Red Banner tank regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. Chernata also distinguished itself in the exercise. This regiment's personnel initiated the socialist competition in the Red Banner Baltic Military District. The tank crewmen acted in outstanding fashion. They exhibited high coordination in combat and proficient handling of weapons and equipment. Here is one typical example. After penetrating the "North's" defenses the commander of the "South" decided to commit this tank regiment to combat in the direction of the main strike with the purpose of exploiting the breakthrough in depth. The tank crewmen took to the road. Lieutenant Colonel Chernata and the regimental staff had extremely little time to organize for combat. Coordination with attached and supporting subunits had to be organized using a map. The details were subsequently worked out on the terrain itself. Owing to clear organization of coordination in time, lines and missions, after marching many kilometers the battalions of the regiment reached their attack line at precisely the appointed time and literally rammed through the "enemy" defenses by a simultaneous thrust.

The "Neman" exercise once again confirmed that only decisive and coordinated actions by all branches of troops can ensure victory. The actions of the troops were highly maneuverable in nature, and the units and subunits were committed to combat on the move, they broke through intermediate lines, they repelled counterattacks, they fought meeting engagements, they crossed water obstacles and they participated in tactical airborne assault landings. Enormous loads were placed upon the soldiers of the privates, NCOs, warrant officers and officers. All personnel displayed aggressiveness, boldness and decisiveness in the exercise, and they performed their

missions with full exertion of moral and physical strength. The Baltic soldiers showed their deep knowledge of modern weapons and combat equipment, and they demonstrated its proficient handling. In the most diverse conditions and the most difficult situations they struck their targets with the first attack, the first shot, the first launch and the first round at maximum range, they took full account of the properties of the equipment in terms of speed, maneuver and protection, and they utilized all of the modern methods and tactics of fighting the enemy.

In the skies, the roar of jet engines never abated for even a single minute during the "Neman" exercise. Operating in behalf of the ground troops, "North" and "South" aviation made powerful fire strikes against combat formations and against the opposite side's advancing reserves. Aerial battles occurred at various altitudes. There was a stubborn fight for air supremacy. Outstanding tactical and fire skills and a will to win were displayed by airmen of the squadron commanded by military pilot 1st class Lieutenant Colonel V. Marchenko, by the fighter-bomber flight headed by Captain S. Verkhovykh and many others.

Fire support helicopters operated at low altitude. Competently capitalizing on the terrain, they would appear suddenly over the combat formations of the "enemy" and launch their missiles with deadly aim.

In one of the stages of the "Neman" exercise the commander of the "South" decided to land an airborne party in the "North's" rear, so that the "enemy" could be pushed away from his tactically advantageous line by a simultaneous strike from the front and rear, and so that back-up echelons could be committed to the resulting breach with the purpose of exploiting the breakthrough in the direction of the Neman River. This landing was preceded by a considerable amount of careful work by commanders and staff with the purpose of coordinating the actions of the advancing subunits, the airborne force, artillery, aviation and fire support helicopters.

It seemed as if everything had been planned out, down to the finest details. But when the time came for action, the weather changed abruptly. Strong gusty winds threatened abortion of the mission. Nevertheless, after meticulous calculations, the airborne forces and equipment were dropped. Displaying exceptional courage and high proficiency, the paratroopers completed their mission successfully. Their strike at the rear of the "North" was unexpected, swift and inescapable.

As in war, not everything goes smoothly in an exercise. But this is precisely where the artfulness of commanders and staff proves itself--in their ability to find a way out of what might seem to be a hopeless situation and strike the "enemy" where he least expects it. During the "Neman" exercise our officers displayed high artfulness in troop command and control, a broad military-technical outlook, and the ability to think creatively, to act boldly, decisively and with initiative, to display resourcefulness and military cunning and to make competent use of the combat experience of previous generations of the motherland's defenders.

Communist Major Viktor Nikolayevich Drizhuk, commander of a motorized rifle battalion and the son of a frontline veteran, is a typical representative of the officers corps of our armed forces. After graduating from a higher military school he commanded a platoon and a company, and he was battalion chief of staff. When he was 29 years old he assumed the post of battalion commander, and this is already the

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fourth year in which he is competently fulfilling his duties. During the exercise the battalion was in the regiment's advance guard; it was the first to reach the Neman, and it crossed the river on the move, securing the crossing for the main forces. It is a difficult thing to organize and conduct a crossing of such a broad water obstacle. It requires a thoroughly trained commander who can efficiently control his subunits and the attached and supporting resources. Major Drizhuk completed this task excellently.

No matter how sophisticated modern weapons and combat equipment are, in the final analysis success in combat depends on people, on their ideological conviction, proficiency, sense of personal responsibility for the motherland's safety and a deep understanding of their missions. Our people are remarkable. In the "Neman" exercise, which proceeded in a situation close to that of real combat, the privates, NCOs, warrant officers and officers had to endure enormous physical and psychological loads, and many of the inconveniences of life in the field. Sometimes without sleep and rest, while wearing resources protecting them against mass destruction weapons, and traveling on rain-soaked country roads and tracks, the troops made marches many kilometers long and then entered into combat on the move.

Soldiers of the 1970s are highly educated, ideologically persuaded, physically fit people with perfect mastery of modern weapons and combat equipment. Let me introduce the reader to just a few of them.

Private Vasiliy Burlakov, the son of a frontline veteran, had worked as a tractor mechanic and was a champion among the young field hands of Kaliningradskaya Oblast. In the army he mastered several specialties and became an outstanding soldier of combat and political training. Sergeant Ivan Levchin, a detachment commander, proved himself well in the exercise. For that matter, how could it have been otherwise? After all, his father had served in the same regiment during the war years. Tankmen sergeants A. Orlov and I. Koloyunas, motorized riflemen privates S. Zvaygzne and R. Mel'nikov, combat engineers Junior Sergeant V. Losev and Private M. Podtelkov, and gunners senior sergeants V. Fedorov and N. Bortun demonstrated high combat proficiency. They are children and grandsons of frontline veterans, outstanding soldiers of combat and political training and top class military specialists.

Here is another fact attesting to the training of the privates and NCOs. During the exercise many of them performed duties one level of command higher. Thus tank commanders Junior Sergeant N. Nesterovich and Senior Sergeant A. Pervakov confidently commanded platoons during the "Neman" exercise.

Soldiers of all branches of troops and specialties underwent a real school of field skill, combat coordination, interaction and courage. Tankmen and motorized riflemen, missilemen and gunners, signalmen and airmen, chemists and scouts acquire firm habits in action in modern combined-arms combat.

The hard labor of soldiers in the engineer troops may be called truly heroic. It was they who operated in march support detachments, clearing the way for the troops. They laid minefields, created obstructions, cleared passageways through "enemy" minefields, built command posts and bridges, supported the crossing of troops over water obstacles and built and operated dummy emplacements.

Subunits of the troop rear services operated well during the exercise. They delivered fuel, ammunition and food to the troops on schedule.

I read the following in a central press report on the "Neman" exercise: "The personnel worked at the limit of their moral and physical strength." Beautiful words. But let the author not be insulted when I say that these words are not quite accurate. Yes, it was hard. The soldiers withstood the test of combat in a training situation. But had things been even more difficult, they would still have performed their soldier's work well. This is exactly how the soldiers of the 1970s resemble their grandfathers and fathers who, tested in years of hardship, destroyed the heavily armed German hordes and raised the banner of the great victory above the Reichstag in May of '45.

From where, from what life-giving spring do they obtain their strength? This spring, were we to give it a name, is our glorious Communist Party. It was the party that nurtured and raised this generation of Soviet people, armed them and entrusted them with the fate of the motherland, the first in man's history to lay a road to a glorious future--communism. And there is nothing more honorable to a soldier, and no cause more worthy, than to defend our communist achievements.

Baltic soldiers expressed their thoughts and sentiments, their unlimited devotion to the cause of the party and their readiness to rise at any moment in the defense of the fatherland and the great achievements of socialism in a warm letter to CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Chairman of the Defense Council, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev.

Political organs and party and Komsomol organizations made a truly enormous contribution to the successful completion of the missions of the "Neman" exercise. As in the war years, communists were present wherever things were the hardest. They served as examples of performance, they encouraged the soldiers to compete in the satisfaction of missions and standards, they generalized the experience of soldiers who distinguished themselves, and they made this experience available to all. Whenever the situation required, the political worker took command and led the subunit. This is exactly what was done by Lieutenant I. Tiryavichyus, company deputy commander for political affairs. The political worker confidently managed the actions of the pontoneers as they assembled a pontoon bridge. There are many examples of this sort in the exercise.

Party-political work never ceased for a single minute in the tanks and infantry combat vehicles, at the gun emplacements, in the rocket launcher crews, in the radio station crews and in the simulation groups. And the harder the situation was, the more persistently and purposefully this work went on. Communists and active Komsomol members were, so to speak, the plenipotentiaries of the party in the military collectives. They welded them into a single unit and steered them toward selfless military labor. They offered brilliant propaganda on the successes of our motherland in communist construction, they unmasked the aggressive imperialist circles and their Beijing accomplices, they competently mobilized the soldiers for resourceful and selfless action, they efficiently informed them of their forthcoming missions, and they explained the need for keeping military and state secrets and complying with firm military order, discipline and safety rules.

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In the period of preparations for the exercise and in the course of the exercise itself, a socialist competition developed in the district's troops with new force. Its organizers--the commanders and political workers--always found the time, always in what would seem to be the most complex situation, to summarize the results of the combat work, to announce the names of the soldiers who had distinguished themselves the most and to set them up as examples to their comrades. The winners of the competition received letters and words of gratefulness, their experience was described in combat leaflets and flash bulletins, and red stars were adhered to their gun barrels and combat vehicles. All of this created a high fighting morale and elicited a desire to work even harder and to perform missions with high quality.

During the exercise an interesting patriotic initiative was born in subunits having heroes of the Soviet Union Guards privates Aleksandr Matrosov and Petr Naboychenko and Private 1st Class Aleksey Koloskov enrolled in perpetuity: All combat training missions were to be fulfilled with nothing less than a grade of "excellent." This initiative was especially valuable in that it sprang forth from the privates and NCOs themselves, and that it was able to develop and attain the broad support of the soldier masses.

If I were asked what was the most valuable about the "Neman" exercise, the first things I would single out would be the high control and initiative displayed and the creative approach to solving problems at all levels. Every officer, warrant officer, NCO and private tried to perform his duties in the most effective and best way, no matter what the moral and physical cost.

Usually writers describing major maneuvers, cruises and exercises try to write about situations associated with a great risk to life. When such situations do arise, naturally our soldiers do display their best human qualities. They dive into icy water to save expensive equipment and comrades, they double up beneath the same parachute and so on. I am unable to bring up any such incidents. But that's alright too. The huge troop organism worked rhythmically and efficiently during the "Neman" exercise. Fulfilling the will of their commanders with their equipment and weapons, thousands of people fought stubborn and exhausting battles day and night. Despite the enormous physical loads, there were no serious violations of the safety rules or of discipline and military order. Each person performed his military duty at his station with a sense of high personal responsibility. This is primarily why the troops of the district were able to complete their missions so successfully.

The party teaches us not to be too proud of our achievements, and to capitalize on our reserves with the purpose of going farther and achieving more. There are no limits to improving combat proficiency. Though it was a glorious page in the history of the Red Banner Baltic Military District, the "Neman" exercise was nevertheless just a single page. And it has already faded into yesterday. Today the troops are comprehensively studying and absorbing the best experience of the commanders, political organs, staffs, military collectives and specialists that have distinguished themselves in the exercise. All of this will make it possible to make another step forward in raising combat proficiency, and to constantly keep combat readiness at the level demanded by the 25th CPSU Congress.

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24

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