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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

22 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: Troop Combat Training,
Some Results and Conclusions

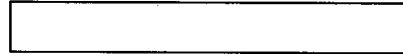
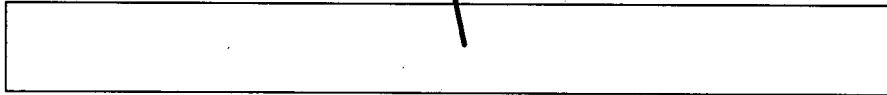
1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on articles from a ~~SECRET~~ Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This article expounds the efficacy of field training which approaches in maximum degree the conditions of an actual combat situation. The article also stresses the need to improve the organization and raise the level of combat training. The use of technical means (training films, radio, television, sound recording equipment) and the employment of programmed instruction and simulators are found to be helpful in accomplishing the task of combat training under modern conditions, although they cannot replace the actual training in the field. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article appeared in Issue No. 1, which was published in 1970.

2. Because the source of this report is extremely sensitive, this document should be handled on a strict need-to-know basis within recipient agencies. For ease of reference, reports from this publication have been assigned

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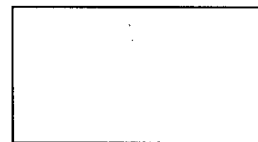
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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR/WARSAW PACT

DATE OF
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22 November 1977

SUBJECT

WARSAW PACT JOURNAL: Troop Combat Training, Some Results
and Conclusions

SOURCE Documentary

Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article from a SECRET Soviet publication called Information Collection of the Headquarters and the Technical Committee of the Combined Armed Forces. This journal is published by Warsaw Pact Headquarters in Moscow, and it consists of articles by Warsaw Pact officers. This article expounds the efficacy of field training which approaches in maximum degree the conditions of an actual combat situation. The article also stresses the need to improve the organization and raise the level of combat training. The use of technical means (training films, radio, television, sound recording equipment) and the employment of programmed instruction and simulators are found to be helpful in accomplishing the task of combat training under modern conditions, although they cannot replace the actual training in the field. This article appeared in Issue No. 1, which was published in 1970.

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Troop Combat Training,
Some Results and Conclusions

Directorate of Operational and Combat Training of
the Staff of the Combined Armed Forces

It is known that one of the key elements of the combat training of a subunit, unit, or large unit of any branch arm and of the branches of the armed forces is a superior level of field (air, naval) proficiency attained in the process of training the troops for combat. The demands imposed on combat training increase from year to year. This arises first and foremost from the considerable changes taking place in the technical equipment of the troops, their armament, organizational structure, and methods of conducting combat actions.

The guiding principle in combat training at all levels is to instruct the personnel, subunits, units, large units, and staffs in those matters that are necessary for war; therefore, the field (air, naval) proficiency of the troops (fleets) constitutes the basis of combat training. Only in the course of training periods and exercises conducted directly in the field, on training grounds, tank driving ranges, and firing ranges can the personnel obtain the necessary experience and practical skills in the efficient utilization of weapons and combat equipment in battle, learn to skilfully orient themselves under the complex conditions of a rapidly changing situation, and learn to employ one or another method of action in striving to fulfil their combat task with exactitude.

In planning and organizing combat training it is very important to fulfil the following complex requirements:

- to adhere to a practical sequential method of training the personnel while simultaneously maintaining the constant combat readiness of the subunits, units, and large units;
- to ensure the organic unity of training and indoctrination;
- to have training approach in maximum degree the conditions of an actual combat situation;
- to coordinate the training of officers, staffs, subunits,

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and units of all the branch arms and special troops with respect to the tasks, subjects, and time frames of training;

-- to conduct commanders' training periods (especially demonstrative ones and ones on instructional techniques) with officers and NCO's before initiating the working out of the appropriate themes with the personnel of the subunits and units.

In allied armies the life and combat training of personnel are organized according to differing requirements and are governed by the regulations and orders of the defense ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states and by the directives of the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Armed Forces.

It should be noted that the organization of combat training in the fraternal armies is based on common military-theoretical views, on the unity of their purposes and tasks in training the troops and naval forces. This is reflected in the fact that the regulations, manuals, guides, and courses of instruction on firing and on driving combat vehicles, as well as other training aids, have much in common in their content, while the combat training programs for the soldiers of subunits and units have a common orientation.

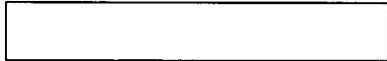
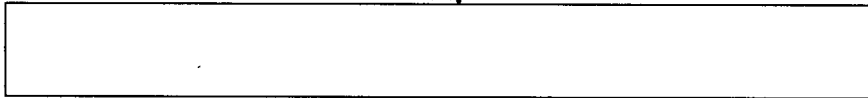
The training programs are regulated by the scope, content, and time periods for the mastery of one or another proficiency, skill, and method taking into account the specific features and functions of each branch arm and service.

In view of the fact that in the equipping of the armies one finds varied and rather complex combat equipment, the number of military specialties among the troops rises to a considerable figure. This, naturally, has given rise to the necessity of differentiating the training process based on the variety of the specialties and lengths of service of the soldiers that have been prescribed in the army (navy) of one or another country. And in this respect, each army has its own problems. These problems pertain first and foremost to the questions of the division of the training year into instructional periods and cycles and to the principles for the full-strength manning of the subunits.

Thus, for example, in the Hungarian People's Army the two years of service of a soldier are divided into three periods of training and the full-strength manning of subunits is carried out

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in conformity with these periods: in the motorized rifle regiment one motorized rifle battalion, manned with soldiers of the same call-up time, is being instructed according to the program for the first period of training, and the second and third motorized rifle battalions are instructed according to the programs for the second and third periods of training.

In the Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Romania the length of service of soldiers in the Ground Forces, Air Defense Forces, and Air Forces amounts to 16 months which are divided into two cycles, and each of these into three stages. In the first stage the basic training of soldiers is carried out (for a month and a half), in the second stage squad and platoon training is carried out (four months), and in the third stage company and battalion training is carried out (two months). In the second cycle the training of subunits is improved and units and large units develop cohesion.

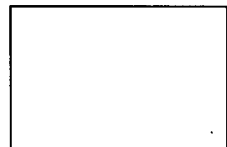
Other armies also have certain distinctive features related to the lengths of service and the division of the training year into appropriate training periods.

Lately all armies have been doing much work to improve the organization and raise the level of the combat training of the troops (navies). In this process, principal attention is being focused on the field, air, and naval training skills, and this has produced favorable results.

The staffs and troops have displayed superior training skills in the exercises and maneuvers conducted by the allied armies.

For example, in the DNEPR maneuver held in March 1970, motorized rifle and tank divisions of the Armed Forces of the USSR, under conditions that approached combat reality to the maximum, overcame deep snow and roadless conditions and successfully accomplished night and day the complex combat tasks and orders of the battle plan.

In the course of the maneuver problems of the organization and maintenance of continuous cooperation between large units and units of the Ground Forces, Air Forces, and airborne forces were worked out.



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Tactical exercises with field firing were of importance in raising field training skills. Such exercises enable one to train personnel in a situation that approximates combat reality and makes it possible for commanders and staffs to display their ability to prepare for combat, to organize cooperation among subunits and units and among attached and supporting means, and to actually control troops as they accomplish their tactical and firing tasks. In exercises with field firing, tactical training and firing training are, as it were, merged into one. Subunits and units are evaluated according to their ability to operate with tactical correctness on the battlefield and to reliably destroy the enemy with their fire. In these exercises they obtain practice in aggressively accomplishing their combat tasks exploiting the fire power of all types of weapons.

In recent years the scale of tactical exercises with field firing has been considerably broadened. Not only are all allied armies conducting company and battalion tactical exercises with field firing and air bombing, but also regimental exercises. The conduct of a number of successive exercises with field firing using the same operational-tactical background has been common practice.

A major and instructive undertaking in this respect was the two-sided operational-tactical exercise with troops that was conducted under the direction of the Minister of Defense of the People's Republic of Bulgaria under the designation FRAKIYA 70. Field firing by motorized rifle, tank, and artillery subunits and units, tactical missile launchings, air bombing, and firing from the onboard weapons of aircraft were carried out in this exercise.

Combined tactical exercises play an important role in the training of fraternal armies. During such exercises cooperation among allied troop units and large units is developed as they together accomplish their combat tasks, unified views on the subject of the organization and conduct of battle are developed, and combat collaboration among allied armies is strengthened. To accomplish these tasks, in the current year units, large units, and formations of the allied armies conducted a number of combined operational-tactical and tactical exercises. One of these major exercises was the combined army troop exercise of large units and units of the Czechoslovak People's Army and the

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Central Group of Forces of the Soviet Army conducted under the codename TARAN. During the exercise the subunits, units, and large units of both fraternal armies, by joint efforts and in close cooperation, accomplished their tasks while conducting offensive combat, making assault crossings of water obstacles with the landing of an airborne force, repelling counterattacks, and developing an offensive into the depth. The instructive conduct of the TARAN exercise was furthered by its thorough preparation as well as by the organization and conduct during the exercise of field firing from tank small arms, artillery firing, air bombing, and the practice launching of tactical missiles. In the different stages of the exercise, eight motorized rifle regiments, nine tank battalions, 23 artillery battalions, and six air regiments were engaged in field firing.

The combat effectiveness of subunits and units depends to a considerable degree on the level of the firing training of the personnel. It is impossible to accomplish a combat task without the efficient utilization of weapons; that is why the allied armies devote great attention to training personnel in the skilful mastery of their weapons during combat. The tasks of destroying targets with the first shot (launching) under varied situational conditions are persistently worked out. In addition, officers and NCO's are trained in organizing the fire of subordinate subunits and in firmly controlling them in combat.

A superior level of firing skills can be achieved only on the basis of the continuous improvement of the quality of the firing training, the improvement of the methods of conducting exercises and firings, the all-round intensification and regular conduct of training practices, the extensive integration of firing training with tactical training and other disciplines, and also with a continuous improvement of the training materiel resources.

As shown by the results of inspections, units and large units of the Hungarian People's Army and the Polish Armed Forces have attained superior results in the level of their firing skills. This was furthered in considerable degree by the regular conduct of training periods and practices in firing with the personnel, by the superior firing training skills and mastery of instructional techniques on the part of the officers and NCO's, and also by the availability of training materiel resources for

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firing training that meet modern requirements and by the continuous improvement of these training materiel resources.

The armies of the Warsaw Pact countries have in service first-class combat equipment that is superior in its tactical-technical capabilities to many of the modern types of equipment of the armies of the capitalist countries. Providing the units and large units with superior equipment has considerably enhanced the strength of the troops and has made it possible for them to operate at high rates of speed and to a great depth, and to achieve decisive ends in a short period of time.

These facts have imposed increased demands on the technical training of personnel, especially on the training of combat vehicle drivers who must fully exploit the technical capabilities of the vehicles and must be able to drive them with sureness under any situational conditions, both night and day, in summer and in winter, on water and under water.

Combat vehicle drivers must be trained directly on the tank and motor vehicle driving ranges and the setup of these must make for vehicle driving conditions that approach to the maximum those found in combat. These requirements are satisfied in the highest degree by the tank driving ranges set up in the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany. Senior personnel of the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries became acquainted with these driving ranges in April 1970 when an assembly on combat training was held. Further training of drivers is being conducted during tactical training periods and exercises in the course of which, on rugged terrain abounding in various natural and artificial obstacles, in contending with difficulties, and under conditions approaching a combat situation, they are improving their combat skills.

In light of these requirements, the personnel of the subunits and units have the duty of knowing to perfection the materiel of the combat equipment and of knowing how to correctly preserve and maintain this equipment.

The skilful actions of soldiers on the battlefield depend greatly on their physical endurance and dexterity. That is why great attention is devoted to the all-round physical training of personnel during combat training. The principal task of physical

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training consists in preparing physically hardened soldiers possessing superior morale and fighting qualities, capable of courageously enduring great physical and psychological pressures, of maintaining their combat effectiveness and of using their combat equipment and weapons under the complex conditions of modern combat.

In accomplishing these tasks it is very important, in addition to the training periods on the sports equipment, to comprehensively develop practical types of sports, those which help soldiers function skilfully as they accomplish their duties in a combat situation.

Units and large units of the Soviet Army, Polish Armed Forces, and National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic, are devoting special attention to the development of practical types of sports. These armies have also established appropriate training materiel resources in which a particular role is assigned to specially equipped terrain areas and obstacle courses taking into consideration the nature of the training of the soldiers of the different branch arms and specialties.

Physical training is carried out not only in the sports areas, but also in the field during tactical training, at firing ranges, in the training periods for the driving of combat and transport vehicles, etc.

Under modern conditions the importance of the morale and political indoctrination of personnel, and especially of their psychological preparation, has increased immeasurably. That is why great attention is devoted to these matters in the system of combat and political training. In all training periods and exercises a situation is set up that will impose great physical and morale-psychological stresses on those being trained for the overcoming of the difficulties that arise and that will also accustom them to prolonged pressure during the conduct of combat actions. Soldiers are indoctrinated with the resolve to accomplish their combat task at all costs, even in the most dangerous situation; methods of overcoming fear are developed, as are methods of employing their weapons with greatest efficiency. This is achieved in particular during field training periods and exercises, especially in tactical exercises with field firing, by employing aircraft bombing and strafing strikes in immediate

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proximity to the troops, by delivering small arms fire ahead of the attacking troops, by the combat launchings of missiles, and by firing from tank weapons in the intervals between the battle formations and over the heads of the troops. During the training periods and exercises extensive use is made of the following: the throwing of live hand grenades, the rolling of tanks over the personnel, the crossing of water obstacles afloat and on the river bottoms, and the conduct of actions under conditions of the enemy's employment of fire and incendiary and smoke means.

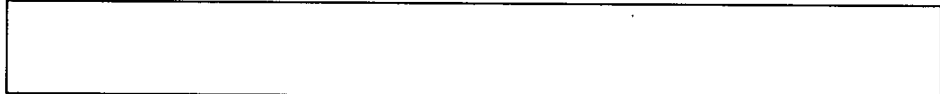
The exercises and inspections carried out have corroborated the fact that all of the fraternal armies are devoting sufficient attention to the morale and psychological training of personnel, which ensures that soldiers are being trained to operate in modern combat and overcome its high morale and psychological stresses.

The skilful use of technical means (training films, radio, television, sound recording equipment) and the employment of programmed instruction are contributing to a significant degree to the successful accomplishment of the task of combat training under modern conditions. Technical training means make it possible to lay bare, with correct instructional techniques and in the most easily understood form, the basic content of the training issues of the subject being studied, to show the method and sequence in fulfilling the procedures (commands), and along with this, reduce the time required to study the content of the training subject or topic. With the help of technical means, more precise and complete information is transmitted to those being trained, monitoring and self-monitoring is organized, interest in the training is heightened, and the training material is grasped better. Programmed training makes it possible to more efficiently monitor the assimilation of the material being studied and achieve the individualized training of separate categories of servicemen. In this context there is particular interest in simulators with programmed attachments or components on which the errors of those being trained are noted down and which give instructions on how these are to be corrected.

In spite of all their positive aspects, technical means and programmed training cannot replace the fundamental form of combat instruction -- the actual mastering by servicemen of the methods and operation of combat equipment directly in the field. At the

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same time, the employment of elements of programmed training and of technical means helps improve the study and retention of factual material and is one of the ways of improving the training process.

Programmed training can produce positive results when it is combined in a well thought-out and harmonious manner with training periods in the field and on firing ranges and training grounds. This was effectively shown during the meeting of command personnel of the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries that was held in October 1969 at a Czechoslovak People's Army base. The experience of the Czechoslovak People's Army on the subject of programmed training is being disseminated to an increasing extent in the other allied armies.

It is of considerable importance in successful troop training to have appropriate training materiel resources that make it possible to develop in a practical manner the content of the subjects being studied in full accord with the requirements of the combat training programs, regulations, manuals, driving courses, and field firing courses.

It is known that the intensive use for training of complex and costly combat equipment and armament is neither always possible nor expedient. That is why in actual troop training extensive use is made of various types of simulators that reproduce realistically the handling of armament, combat vehicles, and devices.

All armies are devoting great attention to the matter of continuously improving and augmenting their training materiel resources. In so doing, principal attention is focused on the comprehensive automation of these resources, on attaining simplicity and visual clarity in training, and on ensuring training resources are in full conformity with the demands of troop training.

The experience of the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany, the Hungarian People's Army, and the Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Romania in establishing and continuously improving their training materiel resources is worthy of attention.



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The continuous improvement of the armament and combat equipment with which the allied armies are being equipped requires the improvement of the existing forms of personnel training and a search for newer and more improved forms and methods of this training. The many years of collaboration of the allied armies in the Warsaw Pact Organization have shown that the accomplishment of this task has been promoted by the systematic exchange of experience and the introduction of advanced methods in the actual training of the troops.

For this purpose, every year, in accordance with the plans of the Combined Command, various combined training measures are carried out.

Training and indoctrinating soldiers is one of the most complex types of activity for commanders and staffs at all levels, requiring superior skill, creative thinking, and the ability to employ advantageously different forms and methods in order to obtain the most efficient results. It is impossible to do this without the all-round and high quality training of all officers since they are the main organizers of training. The correct planning, well thought-out organization, instructive conduct, and comprehensive support of all training periods and exercises calls for officers to have superior skill in instructional techniques, for them to persistently and systematically raise their political, military, and military-technical knowledge, and to master the art of organizing and controlling combat.

The status of the combat training of allied troops and navies enables one to draw certain conclusions in the interest of improving their combat effectiveness and combat readiness.

As shown by actual practice, the combat training level of the Combined Armed Forces at the present stage has risen noticeably.

However, we cannot stop at the level attained, but must take more effective steps to improve the quality of the training of the troops. It is necessary to persistently search for and introduce into practice such measures as will shorten the time needed to bring them up to combat readiness. To accomplish this task it is necessary to systematically drill subunits and units

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on how to place themselves on combat alert, to more extensively introduce technical means into the system of notifying officer personnel, and to improve the methods of work of commanders and staffs in controlling subordinate subunits and units in the process of bringing them up to increased and full combat readiness.

In training commanders at all levels, it is necessary to develop their abilities so that they become capable of independently organizing combat directly on the terrain. This, regrettably, does not always receive proper attention. Occasions sometimes arise when certain subunit and unit commanders, in organizing combat, reduce almost all of their work to work on a map and not on the terrain; that is why the activities of these commanders are more stereotyped than creative.

In view of this it seems to us that during tactical (tactical-special) exercises and training periods we should take special care to develop in subunit, unit, and large unit commanders practical skills in working on the terrain; to raise their ability to conduct personal reconnaissance, to assign tasks to subordinates, to coordinate the actions of all components of the battle formation taking into account possible enemy opposition and the conditions of the terrain, to organize with precision the cooperation of the branch arms, to organize combat and materiel-technical support, and to organize control in a better thought-out manner utilizing the different means of communication.

In the given matter, senior commanders play an important role. As they possess great practical experience and superior training in instructional techniques, they can undoubtedly convey their work knowledge and experience to subordinate commanders.

Lately, certain armies have rather often allocated units and large units not at their full strength, but at reduced strength, to tactical exercises. This, of course, cannot provide troops, commanders, and staffs with high quality training. In such exercises commanders and staffs do not obtain the necessary practice in resolving in full scope all of the problems of organizing and supporting combat, nor do they acquire proper practical skills in controlling subordinate units during the combat actions. Cooperation among the branch arms, units, and

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subunits is not worked out in full measure. That is why it is more expedient in such exercises to allocate units and large units at their full strength with the required reinforcement means and with all of the organic equipment and weapons and the prescribed materiel reserves being moved out. Such an approach to field exercises makes it possible to raise the level of training of commanders and staffs and to improve the level of field training of the troops.

It will be impossible to successfully organize the conduct of all training periods and exercises in a qualitatively superior manner without the further improvement and perfection of the instructional technique skills of officer personnel, especially that of platoon, company (battery), and battalion commanders. Therefore, the task of senior commanders and chiefs consists in personally teaching subordinate commanders and in continuously improving the techniques of their practical skills in organizing and conducting training periods with the soldiers and subunits. In the interests of raising the instructional technique training of officers, we should carefully prepare and in an instructive manner conduct demonstration and instructional methods training periods and continuously render practical assistance to subordinate commanders both during the preparation and also during the course of the training periods and exercises. In this respect, special instructional technique meetings and conferences can render much assistance. All of these forms of instruction will promote the improvement of the instructional technique training of command personnel.

In the Air Defense Forces there are also unresolved problems. In particular, we should work out more perseveringly the tasks of utilizing fighter aircraft to their full radius of action where control over the fighters is transferred to the command posts of adjacent allied countries and where aircraft make landings on cooperation airfields. It is also necessary to make more intensive efforts to train flight personnel and the crews of command posts (observation posts) to perform combat actions at low altitudes and under conditions of the enemy's employment of powerful jamming. In this connection, in the training of radiotechnical troops greater attention must be focused on improving radar reconnaissance methods and on supporting the combat actions of surface-to-air missile troops and fighter aviation against a large number of simultaneously

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operating targets both at high and at low altitudes and under jamming conditions.

In the training of front aviation there are certain problems ~~which~~ which require practical resolution such as the organization and relocation of units and large units over long distances, the mastery of effective methods of conducting combat actions at low altitudes, and the destruction of small mobile targets on the battlefield in the first attack.

In the ships and units and large units of the navies the most urgent task, together with other tasks, is that of covering the ships from the air when they are operating on the open sea. The practical resolution of this problem will undoubtedly increase the effectiveness with which naval forces are employed.

This article sets forth only the basic issues of the combat training of the troops and naval forces of the allied countries and arrives at certain conclusions which, when implemented, will, in our opinion, make it possible to raise the level of training and combat readiness of the units and large units. It goes without saying that these conclusions do not encompass all of the aspects of combat training and they can be expanded and worked out in detail based on the specific conditions of each allied army.

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