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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

24 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : William W. Wells
Deputy Director for Operations
SUBJECT : MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): The Law of
Universal Military Service and the
Manning of the Armed Forces

1. The enclosed Intelligence Information Special Report is part of a series now in preparation based on the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". This article presents an outline of the provisions made in the Universal Military Service Law adopted in October 1967 for the manning of the Soviet Armed Forces. It discusses basic military training of young people for service, the new call-up procedure and its effect on the manning of the forces, the manning of the reserves, and the manning of the armed forces with officer personnel. Attention also is given to matters of raising the level of officer training in military and civilian institutions, and replenishing the officer corps with sergeants in conscript and extended service. This article appeared in Issue No. 1 (83) for 1968, [redacted]

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 [redacted]

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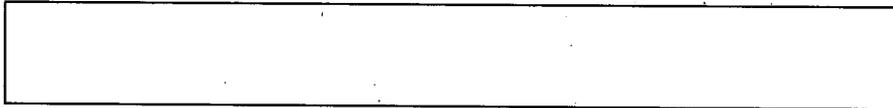
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Intelligence Information Special Report

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COUNTRY USSR



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SUBJECT

MILITARY THOUGHT (USSR): The Law of Universal Military Service and the Manning of the Armed Forces

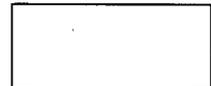
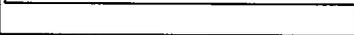
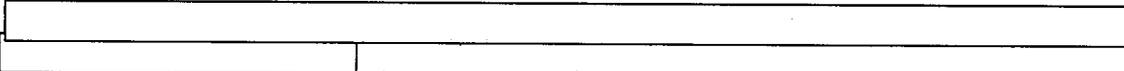
SOURCE Documentary Summary:

The following report is a translation from Russian of an article which appeared in Issue No. 1 (83) for 1968 of the SECRET USSR Ministry of Defense publication Collection of Articles of the Journal "Military Thought". The author of this article is General-Leytenant A. Rudakov. This article presents an outline of the provisions made in the Universal Military Service Law adopted in October 1967 for the manning of the Soviet Armed Forces. It discusses basic military training of young people for service, the new call-up procedure and its effect on the manning of the forces, the manning of the reserves, and the manning of the armed forces with officer personnel. Attention also is given to matters of raising the level of officer training in military and civilian institutions, and replenishing the officer corps with sergeants in conscript and extended service.

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The Law of Universal Military Service and the Manning
of the Armed Forces

by
General-Leytenant A. Rudakov

At the third session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, held in October 1967, the Law of Universal Military Service was adopted. The new law reflects all the economic and social transformations achieved by Soviet society by the fiftieth anniversary of its coming into existence, as well as fundamental changes in the means and methods of armed combat.

The Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union A. A. Grechko, in his report at the session emphasized that the new law is directed toward a further increase in the combat readiness of the armed forces of the Soviet state and the strengthening of their combat effectiveness. The law introduces a number of fundamentally new provisions into the procedure for fulfilling the solemn duty of citizens of the USSR. It deals with such important questions as the reduction in the terms of active military service for soldiers, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers; the establishment for all citizens of a uniform draft age; the annual holding of two call-ups instead of one; and the introduction of basic military training for young people.

The law is based on the necessity for training the entire population of the country for the armed defense of the socialist Fatherland. It governs the most important matter of building the military establishment -- manning the armed forces.

Let us examine, without claiming perfection for the recommendations proposed, a few practical ways of realizing the system of manning our armed forces provided for by the law.

Military training of young people for service in the armed forces. Military training of young people involves a body of measures taken by the state to prepare young men for service in the armed forces.

Basic military training of youth has become particularly important under present-day conditions. The new Law of Universal

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Military Service provides that prior to being called up for active military service, young men of pre-draft and draft age will everywhere complete compulsory basic military training without interruption of their work or studies. This will not only provide our young people with essential military knowledge, but will also increase their orderliness and discipline.

The law provides that basic military training must be conducted in general and specialized secondary schools, as well as in professional-technical educational institutions by staff military instructors.

In view of the reduction in the term of service and the increase of requirements for combat readiness of troops for the armed forces, it is very important to train in advance, prior to their induction into the army, the required number of inductees in military technical specialties. For these purposes the law provides for the training of young men in professional-technical training institutions and in DOSAAF training organizations. Here young men will be able to master various military specialties and become, for example, drivers, radio operators, parachutists, etc.

Basic military training of youth in secondary school represents a new direction in military work. In our view, at this stage of instruction we must pay special attention to military patriotic work. Therefore, a special course of social disciplines and military affairs must present, in a popular style, material dealing with the heroic past of our armed forces and their purpose, using specific examples to illustrate the heroic feats of the Soviet people and youth in the struggle against the enemies of the Soviet state, reflect the glorious stages of the development of the Soviet Armed Forces, and also show what demands are made on the defenders of the socialist Homeland.

The basic military training curricula probably should include learning the oath, the basic regulations of the Armed Forces, the basics of military technical and tactical training, and weapons of mass destruction and methods of protection against them. And of course during basic military training great attention should be paid to military physical training.

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During the second stage of training the prospective inductee is faced with mastering a military specialty. This unquestionably is an extremely important period in the military training of young people, and plays a major role in the successful completion of service in the Armed Forces. Therefore, the most careful attention must immediately be directed toward the development of training curricula and textbooks, and to proper organization of the training process.

It also is very important to solve other questions pertaining to the military training of youth. These include the selection and placement of personnel, and the organization of training materiel resources. In addition, we consider it desirable to develop a regulation or provision dealing with basic and specialized military training. All this has great educational and practical importance. It seems to us that the regulation (provision) should reflect the requirements of the law concerning basic military training, the basic goals of the military training of youth, the duties and rights of students and teachers of military affairs, the basic provisions dealing with the educational, academic, and applied nature of military affairs in secondary school, and a provision dealing with forms of dress and the military salute. The regulation (provision) and the body of military educational work will contribute to a considerable extent to the strengthening of discipline among students, and will help instil in them a sense of patriotic and military duty.

A logical addition to the measures for basic military training should also be the introduction of military dress for students. We have no intention of turning the school into a barracks and imposing a system of regular military dress. We have in mind a special uniform to be used during practical studies of military affairs.

Manning the Armed Forces with soldiers, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers. According to the Law of Universal Military Service in the Soviet Army and Navy, two methods are used to bring personnel up to prescribed strength: the call-up of citizens for active military service, and voluntary enlistment in military service by sergeants and petty officers who have completed their active service, as well as by women and reserve officers.

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The basic method of manning the armed forces with soldiers, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers is the induction into active military service of citizens who have reached the age of 18 by the day of the call-up.

The new law has reduced by one year the term of active military service for sergeants, petty officers, soldiers, and seamen. As a result, in subsequent years the trained reserve of men subject to the draft has been expanded and, what is especially important, the national economy will receive more quickly, for active productive activity, citizens who have completed active military service. The manpower pool of draftees with secondary education and who have completed basic and special military training will be able to master quickly and successfully the most complex armament and equipment.

The law allows a deferment of induction into active military service for family reasons, for the continuation of one's education, and for reasons of health, and it also establishes a maximum draft age. For example, draftees who have received a deferment for various reasons continue to be eligible for the draft until they reach 27 years of age. Thus the state grants all citizens the opportunity to fulfil their solemn obligation by completing the regular term of service in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the USSR.

The new call-up procedure makes everyone equal before the law in the matter of completing active military service, and thereby contributes to the further expansion of the draft manpower pool. The problem is to carry out the law unswervingly and ensure that all male citizens will in one form or another complete active military service.

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The Law of Universal Military Service does not, as is known, prescribe the method for manning such forces as the airborne troops, flight personnel of the Air Forces, and the submarine fleet. Meanwhile, for many years, when assigning men to the airborne troops, not only the level of training of the draftee was considered, but his personal preference as well.

The voluntary desire to serve in the forces -- service that places an added emotional, physical, and psychological load on an individual -- should be regarded as a manifestation of high

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patriotism in peacetime. There is no need to try to prove the necessity of broad explanatory work on this question, and the popularization of these forces and the personnel who have completed service in them. The detachment of cosmonauts is a striking example of voluntary service to our Communist Party and the entire Soviet people. The present direction of work toward manning our armed forces must be expanded considerably. This will increase to a great degree the combat effectiveness of the most important branch arms.

The exceptional role of sergeants and petty officers in strengthening and maintaining the combat effectiveness of the armed forces is obvious to everyone. This is the largest group of command personnel. The success of the everyday and multifaceted work of educating and training personnel depends to a great extent on the quality of its training.

At the present time the manning of the Soviet Armed Forces with sergeants and petty officers is being accomplished by training soldiers and seamen on active military service. Even before their induction military commissariats go through a screening process for candidates, assigning them to various training large units and schools. Also important is the training of sergeants and petty officers in practical work directly in their subunits or aboard ship.

It should be noted that certain shortcomings have been observed in training sergeants from the rank and file who have completed active military service. In a number of cases noncommissioned officers who completed their training in training subunits have difficulty coping with the duties assigned to them, and have a poor knowledge of the regulations and a low level of teaching skills. Some graduates receive inadequate physical training.

The military commissariats are also at fault here. From the large number of draftees they do not always choose the right candidates. Assignments to training subunits and schools in most cases are made on the basis of data on questionnaires. The task of training men to become noncommissioned officers can be accomplished successfully only through good basic training of youth. In this connection secondary schools and DOSAAF training organizations will be called upon now to play a major role.

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Of no less concern is the question of the length of training given students in schools for junior command personnel. Under the previously existing three- and four-year term of service in the armed forces, this training lasted about one year. How should we now organize proper training of sergeants, given the present shorter term of service? There is one tempting proposal. In our view, the principles of training reserve officers in civilian higher educational institutions may be applied to secondary technical educational institutions for the training of sergeants. This would make it possible after a year of basic military training to man special groups of noncommissioned officers. In two years of study in a secondary technical institution, draftees not only will receive basic military training, but also will complete the prescribed course curriculum for a noncommissioned officer. Thus, they will be candidates for subsequent appointment to positions held by sergeants.

The training of noncommissioned officers in this case, too, will unquestionably have to be continued after call-up in training large units and schools. But the terms of study can probably be set at four to five months.

There is considerable reason to call up citizens who have completed candidate training to be noncommissioned officers immediately after graduation from secondary school. This will make it possible to complete the training of men to become sergeants in training divisions and military schools in the Armed Forces before the beginning of the new academic year and to assign them to units by 1 January.

There is no doubt that the measures involved in developing preliminary training for junior command personnel in educational institutions will require certain organizational measures and material expenditures. It will be necessary to maintain a certain staff of teachers of military affairs. It is probably desirable to introduce distinctive insignia for those studying to become noncommissioned officer candidates. This should attract young people to a certain extent, and enhance their authority as the future command level.

The increase in noncommissioned officer personnel in the troops will henceforth be accomplished by drawing from extended-service personnel. From among the best sergeants and

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petty officers who have remained in the ranks of the Armed Forces, it is possible to create stable cadres of noncommissioned officer personnel in the most responsible positions. Of special value are experienced noncommissioned officers serving as first sergeants of companies and batteries, and commanders of tank crews, combat vehicles, and radiotechnical means.

While giving due credit to the manning of the junior command personnel by drawing from extended-service personnel, it should be noted that in the postwar years, as a result of an insufficient draft manpower pool, there has occurred an excessive increase in the number of T/O positions filled by extended-service personnel. This has resulted in a certain lowering of standards in their selection. As a result, among extended-service personnel, unfortunately, there are people with low professional and moral qualities. Therefore great attention must constantly be given to the question of enrolling personnel in extended service and to determining the positions to which they must be assigned.

Manning the reserve of rank-and-file and junior command personnel will always be the overriding concern of the Soviet state. Without a sufficient number of trained reserves we cannot count on victory in war.

Whatever the predictions with regard to a future war, to fight it will require great mobilization of human resources. The new law stipulates that this problem be resolved by implementing a number of important measures.

The reserve of rank-and-file and junior command personnel is now divided into two categories. The first includes men who have completed at least one year of active military service, as well as all participants in combat operations for the defense of the USSR. The second includes all those who have either served in the forces less than a year, or who for various reasons have not been called up into active military service, as well as women who have completed active military service or who have been selected for special registration.

The training and retraining periods established by the law for reserve personnel, from the point of view of both the number of training assemblies and the length of study on the whole,

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fully ensure the maintenance of their practical skills. But the time period prescribed by the law is only a premise for achieving the set goal -- the most important thing is the most efficient possible use of the time spent in training reserve personnel, and the correct organization of the manning of large units and units. The latter task involves seeing to it that in the event of mobilization expansion the very specialists which are needed will enter the large units and units. Only by so doing can we have combat-effective troops when they have short periods in which to achieve readiness following deployment.

Manning the armed forces with officer personnel. Command personnel of various categories are the central figures in the Armed Forces. The combat effectiveness and combat readiness of the Armed Forces depend to a considerable extent on the level of training of command, political, and technical cadres. It is precisely for this reason that the Program of the CPSU notes that the Party will concern itself untiringly with the training of command, political, and technical cadres of the army and navy who are totally dedicated to the cause of communism and are drawn from among the finest representatives of the Soviet people. Considerable work has already been done toward improving the methods of manning and training officer cadres. But we must not limit ourselves to what has been achieved. The improvement of work with military cadres is obviously only entering its most critical phase, when we must bring the available materiel and technical resources of the Armed Forces into conformance with the method of manning and training officer personnel. Among the practical measures for accomplishing this task we would include:

- improving the method of selecting young people for officer training;
- broadening the base for the manning of the officer complement;
- raising the level of training of officers in military and civilian educational institutions, as well as of the rank and file and sergeants in conscript and extended service.

The introduction of basic military training in secondary school establishes the prerequisites for improving the screening

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of young people in military educational institutions. Realizing this objective premise will require considerable explanatory and organizational work in secondary schools, social organizations, and the Komsomol. It would be extremely useful to revive the tradition whereby young men, including members of the All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League, would be assigned to military educational institutions only on the recommendation of the Komsomol. The Komsomol should become the basic resource and the final arbiter in questions of education, selection, and assignment of young men to military educational institutions. This work must be conducted according to a strictly practical plan, on both the individual and the mass level.

A major role in developing the work of the Komsomol in selecting young men to study in military educational institutions must be played by army Komsomol organizations. Their task is to maintain continuous contact with local Komsomol organizations and give them practical assistance in military patriotic work.

Broadening the manning base with officer cadres of the Armed Forces. Under previously existing legislation, the officer complement of the armed forces of the USSR was composed of men who had completed secondary school and higher military educational institutions, servicemen who upon completing active military service passed tests as external students in the curriculum of a secondary military educational institution, and reserve officers who enlisted voluntarily for active military service. Now, in addition to these sources, the law provides for a new call-up in peacetime of reserve officers up to the age of 30 for active military service of two to three years.

The main contingent of regular officer personnel is filled from secondary and higher military educational institutions. This procedure will be continued in the future. At the same time the calling up for service in the Armed Forces of reserve officers who have not completed active military service promises great advantages. In the first place they can always make up for a shortage of officers. Secondly, the calling up for military service of officers who have graduated from higher civilian educational institutions constitutes an important source for the continuous replenishment of the reserves with cadres who have had considerable practice among the troops.

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The completion of active service by reserve officers in two to three years will have a beneficial effect on the manning and coordinating of large units and units deployed during a mobilization.

Raising the level of training of the officer personnel in military and civilian educational institutions. As is known, our command personnel cadres are for the most part trained in secondary and higher military schools, in military academies, and in civilian higher educational institutions. At the present time one of the main tasks in work with military cadres is to increase their political, military, and military technical knowledge. In recent years much has been done in this direction, and it is no accident therefore that more than a fourth of our officers have higher military education. The quality of training of cadres in secondary and higher military educational institutions has greatly improved. The continuous infusion of new combat equipment into the Armed Forces, and the more complex processes of troop control in a battle and an operation, confront officer personnel with newer and newer requirements.

For this reason practical measures are necessary, directed toward further improvement in the training of military personnel. Such measures, we suppose, should include:

- the refinement of command and engineer education in military educational institutions;
- the improvement of officer training in military schools and academies;
- the coordination of programs of instruction in military schools and academies.

At present all the activity of an officer, whatever position he holds, is related to the military and military technical fields. The level of technical equipping of troops is such, that for effective control of them an officer must have not only a knowledge of command, but also a knowledge of engineering.

Let us take, for example, fairly sizeable subunits of the Armed Forces: a missile battery, a tank company, or a radiotechnical equipment company. What do they consist of in

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terms of technical equipment? They contain systems of combat vehicles and special vehicles with extremely complex armament, power units, and radiotechnical equipment. Only people with special command and engineer education will be able to control these subunits and employ them effectively in battle. Furthermore, the officer's service itself is dynamic by nature. Today he might be a platoon commander, but in only 10 to 12 years the same officer could be commanding a unit or a large subunit where even more diverse and complex combat equipment is concentrated. Thus, the time has probably come to give even more graduates of military command schools a higher, as a rule, command-engineer education. This is one of the urgent problems we face today. It is already beginning to be practically implemented. Many military educational institutions are training officers according to a command-engineer curriculum. But this process is still in the beginning stage. It obviously should be extended to the training of the basic level of command personnel. In this matter command schools will play an increasing role. But their terms of instruction are still extremely varied and the amount of material covered is likewise not uniform: along with secondary military schools there are also higher schools with four- to five-year terms of instruction. It seems to us that the training received by graduates from military command schools must enable officers to discharge duties up to and including the regimental level. Accordingly students in military schools must on the whole be given a higher command-engineer education. Tactics and disciplines related to it must be thoroughly studied through the regimental level. General and engineer disciplines of the appropriate curriculum should be included in the program of study within the overall program of the higher school. The terms of instruction in military command schools will probably be set at 3.5 to four years.

It is possible that it will be necessary also to reexamine the training curriculum in the higher combined-arms command schools. To continue at the present time to graduate a combined-arms officer with a secondary military and higher academic education is hardly justified. Such an officer deals not only with people, but also with extremely complex military equipment. There is no challenging the fact that he needs academic knowledge, but at the same time he must have solid military technical training.

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In our view, graduates of all military command schools must receive a commander-engineer diploma, and the schools themselves must exist on an equal footing.

The curricula of the military academies obviously must be closely coordinated with those of the military schools, which, unfortunately, is not yet the case. But if the military schools were all to introduce a uniform level of training, then this problem could easily be solved. In that case instruction in the military academies will be a sort of continuation and completion of the higher education of an officer.

With proper coordination of the curricula of military schools and military academies, it will be possible to reduce the terms of instruction in higher military educational institutions. The importance of this measure can hardly be overestimated.

The calling up of reserve officers who have graduated from civilian institutions of higher learning for active military service of two to three years will unquestionably make it necessary to improve the training of these officer personnel as well. In the meantime practice has shown that military departments of civilian higher educational institutions thus far are not giving the officer sufficient knowledge and practical skills. It has become necessary to reexamine the academic curricula in order to bring the training of a reserve officer closer to the requirements of his serving in officer positions among the troops. In particular, a number of parts of general courses could be dropped without harm or transferred to other departments of the same institutes. At the same time we should broaden parts that teach the officer practical skills in the command of a subunit and in work with armament and equipment.

Another weak link in the training of reserve officers is the training materiel resources in military departments of civilian higher educational institutions. In a number of cases either they have become obsolete and need to be modernized, or they are not properly equipped. Shortages exist in the supply of up-to-date models of armament.

Officer training for sergeants in conscript and extended service. While counting on a large number of officers graduating from the military and civilian educational institutions, we must

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not rule out the replenishment of the officer corps with sergeants in conscript and extended service. The vast majority of servicemen in this category will be able commanders, specialists, and political workers. The task is to help the most worthy sergeants, by organizing general and special training, to complete successfully the required course of study parallel with the fulfilment of their basic duties.

In fifty years the Soviet Armed Forces have achieved a high level of development, but life confronts them with newer and newer tasks in the matter of strengthening combat readiness. This in turn requires a careful study of the present manning system and, taking into account the experience gained, to develop it relative to the requirements for the further strengthening of the Armed Forces. The new Law of Universal Military Service is an important step in improving the system of manning the troops and of increasing their combat effectiveness.

We would consider useful an exchange of opinions on the matters treated here for the purpose of working out rational proposals which, if adopted, will make it possible in a short time to realize most fully the great opportunities for strengthening the might of our armed forces that have been opened up by the new law.

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