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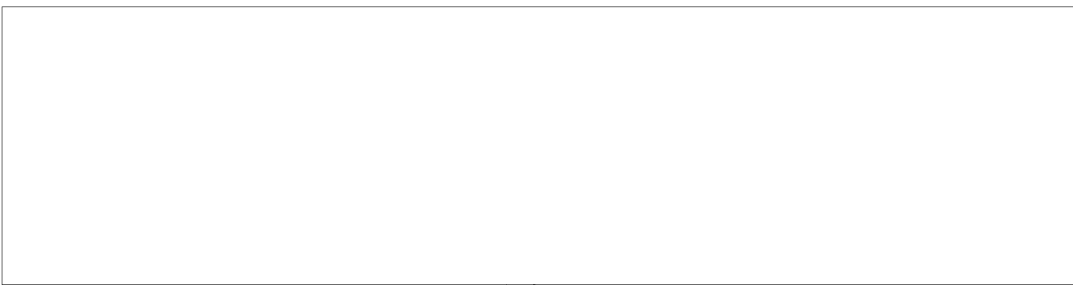
COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
TOPIC	12th PS Brigade in Plana		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		PREPARED	23 December 1954
REFERENCES			25X1
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The headquarters of the 12th PS Brig, which was commanded by Major Engermayer (fnu), was located in Plana (N 50/P 55) prior to 19 November 1954. Other officers of the brigade were one Captain Stroleny (fnu) and one Pokorny (fnu), who belonged to the political department. A Soviet major was allegedly assigned to the brigade headquarters. The Soviet colonel, Bradavka (phonetic spelling; fnu), was detached to the border guard department of the Ministry of the Interior. Stations of other PS brigades included Decin (N 51/F 56), Karlovy Vary (N 51/P 69), Cheb (N 51/P 37), Pobezovice (N 51/P 61), Susice (N 50/Q 28), Volary (N 49/Q 55), Ceske Budejovice (O 49/Q 96) and Znojmo (O 49/Q 06). Bratislava (P 49/X 99) was the station of the 11th Brig.

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In early October 1954, recruits of the 1934 and 1935 classes were inducted and assigned to the training battalion in Chodova Plana, which trained a total of about 900 men for border-guard service. Since about mid-October 1954, the training battalion had been commanded by Senior Lieutenant Masek (fnu), who previously commanded the PS battalion in Lesna (Schoenwald, N 50/P 43). Senior Lieutenant Lansky (fnu), who was previously director of training, was also still in Chodova Plana. The headquarters of the training battalion was located in the castle and the troops were quartered in a large twin-hutment and 4 other hutments. Officers of the training battalion still included Senior Lieutenants Beneda (fnu), Kulhavy (fnu) and Prvaznik (fnu), and Lieutenants Dvorzak (fnu), Musil (fnu) and Sindelar (fnu).

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3. Members of the NCO training course were exempt from border-guard service, but were frequently detached as temporary reinforcements to units which were committed in the border area. On 4 July 1954, 50 soldiers of the training course were detached to the Pavluv Studenec (Vorder-Paulusbrunn, N 50/P 44) area where US soldiers had been arrested when they crossed the border. On another occasion, an undetermined number of men were detached as reinforcements to the 3d PS Co in Oldrichov (Ulrichsgruen, N 50/P 46). After the termination of the NCO training course, the trainees were dispatched to the East German border where they helped to set up a wire-fence obstacle in the sector of the Decin PS brigade. Priority was given to the construction of this obstacle in order to prevent Czechs from crossing the East German border.

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5. Prior to 19 November 1954, the 12th PS Co was quartered in two enlisted men's hutments and one officers' hutment in Neuwindischgrätz (N 50/P 33).

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For about a year Lieutenant Josef Cejka was company commander. Deputy company commander was Lieutenant Brazdil (fnu), who was presently detached to the 4th Co. The company numbered 2 officers, 10 NCOs, and 28 EM and was organized into an undetermined number of rifles squads, a machine-gun squad and a dog-handler squad. The ordnance of the unit included 1 heavy machine gun, 3 light machine guns, 30 submachine guns, 29 rifles, 2 recoilless rifles and an undetermined number of hand grenades. Each soldier had a gas mask. The unit also had two riding horses and three horses. The sector of the company extended from boundary-stone 14/3 as far as boundary-stone 14/7. Fifty-two percent of the men of the company were Czechs, 40 percent were Moravians, and 8 percent were Slovaks. The term of active service was 27 months, while soldiers of the army had to serve a term of 24 months. Soldiers of the army could not go over to the PS troops. Induction to the border-guard troops subject to good reports on the draftee concerned by the national committee of his place of residence and the workers' council of his employer. Regular soldiers of the 12th Co had to do 8 hours patrol service and receive 3 hours instruction. They were given 8 hours rest and 5 hours spare time. Once a month, all members of the company had to take part in a record practice at the infantry range near the billets. All soldiers had to fire with submachine guns, rifles, and light machine guns.

6. Political indoctrination of the border-guard troops was organized as follows: companies and battalions had deputies for political affairs (zastupce keci politicke = ZVP), the brigade had a political department (Politicke Oddeleni Brigady = POB), and in Prague was the political administrative agency of the border-guard troops (Politicka Sprava Pohranicni Straze = PS PS) whose head was

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Lieutenant Colonel Pimpara (fnu). One General Zeman (fnu) was connected with political indoctrination. 2

1. Comment. In the fall of 1954, members of the 1935 class were inducted under a decree by the MNO which, effective from the fall of 1954, lowered the age of induction by another year. This policy was already set down in the National Defense Act, dated 23 March 1949. Implementing ordinances were apparently published by the MNO from time to time. With the induction of the 19-year-old, and perhaps even a portion of the 18-year-old, the lowest practicable age limit has been reached. It is undetermined what measures the Czech Government will take when, starting about the fall of 1956, only one class a year will be subject to induction.

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