

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Weekly Military Summaries Nos. 1/64 and 2/64	DATE DISTR.	6 222
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		REFERENCES	
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
mili-
tary summaries Nos. 1/64 and 2/64, the contents of which are described below:

- a. No. 1/64 gives details on the following: (1) Personnel rotation of the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany (GSFG); (2) Training of the GSFG; (3) Overt information on the commissioning of NCO's in the National People's Army (NVA) who have not attended officers' schools; (4) Security measures in the Berlin area and along the demarcation line; (5) Training of the NVA; (6) [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] Lt. Colonel Walter Krysmann, possible 50X1-HUM
commander of the NVA 1st Motorized Rifle Division; (7) Presence of high-ranking officials at the Drewitz check-point during a break-through exercise; (8) Overt information on the M 1891/30 rifle; (9) Technical details on the MSG-.60 mine detecting device; (10) Reduced air activity of the Grossenhain bomber regiment; (11) Overt information on awards for NVA personnel; (12) Lack of activity at Dessau airfield; (13) Aircraft count at Cottbus airfield; (14) Patrol activity of the East German Navy (EGN).

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GROUP 1
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- b. No. 2/64 gives details on the following: (1) Presence of Soviet Army personnel along the demarcation line; (2) Possible transfer of GSFG AAA units to the Grenadier caserne, Potsdam; (3) Activities of the unidentified amphibious battalion of the GSFG 8th Guards Army in the area of the Woermlitz caserne, Halle; (4) Training of the GSFG; (5) Overt information on map markings for ABC contaminated areas; (6) Security measures in the Berlin area and along the demarcation line; (7) Training of the NVA; (8) NVA/Border Command (BC) protection along the Czech border; (9) NVA/BC supply depot on Bahnhofstrasse in Kahla; (10) Alleged integration of all able-bodied men between 35 and 60 years of age into Kampfgruppen; (11) Infrared device on AK submachine guns; (12) Technical data on the P-3 sedan; (13) FIREBAR aircraft of the Werneuchen bomber regiment; (14) Use of air-to-surface missiles in exercises at the Gadow-Rossow bombing range; (15) Patrol activity of the EGN; (16) Possible base for the EGN 6th Flotilla at Bug on Ruegen Island; (17) Speculation on the resumption of Rear Admiral Neukirchen as Chief of Staff of the EGN; (18) NVA exhibition in Prague; (19) The awarding of the "Johannes R. Becher" medal to Professor Alexander Dymshitz, former cultural officer of the Soviet Military Administration; (20) SED work in the NVA; (21) Educational level of conscripts; (22) Informers in the armed forces; (23) Improvement of FDJ (Free German Youth) work in the NVA.

2. The reports are not numbered in sequence.

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Distribution of Attachments

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W e e k l y S u m m a r y

No. 2/64

Covering the Week Ending on 14 January 1964

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I. Soviet Union1. General (GSFG)

New supplementary information on the presence of Soviet Army soldiers along the Demarcation Line.
For details, see annex.

2. Troop Location (GSFG)a) Twentieth Gds Army

15 Dec 63 Potsdam - elms of the troop elements, so far stationed in Ruinen Kaserne, were transferred to Grenadier Kaserne [redacted]

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Comment. The 359th Gds AAA Regt/10th Gds Tk Div is stationed in Potsdam (2286/81). Above observations confirm the AAA regt in both casernes.

b) Eighth Gds Army

20 Dec 63 Halle - two trucks carrying assault boats, and soldiers conducting exercises were observed at local troop training grounds of the Woermlitz Kaserne [redacted]

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Comment. Additional indication of the quartering of the u/i amph bn/Eighth Gds Army in the Woermlitz Kaserne (8203).

3. Training (GSFG)

11 Dec 63 Halle - approximately 100 soldiers were observed receiving training instructions with eight AA guns in the training area near Halle airfield [redacted]

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Comment. Special training of newly arrived recruits of the 2505th Gds AAA Regt/21st Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

14 Dec 63 Potsdam-Gr. Glienicke - six tanks moved on Highway [redacted] and turned off in the direction of Bornin [redacted]

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Comment. Presumably elms/62nd or 63rd Gds Tk Regt/10th Gds Tk Div conducting special training at Bornin troop training grounds.

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- 20 Dec 63 Parade grounds of the Woermlitz Kaserne (8203), Halle - approximately 100 soldiers were engaged in drill training and 30 soldiers conducted training with heavy mortars [] 50X1-HUM
- Comment. Recruit training of the 69th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt/21st Gds Mtz Rifle Div.
- 20 Dec 63 Local training grounds of the Woermlitz Kaserne, Halle - 15 soldiers received training instructions with AT guns and mortars; additional soldiers were observed as well as two trucks carrying assault boats [] 50X1-HUM
- Comment. Special training of the 21st Gds Mtz Rifle Div and u/i amph bn/Eighth Gds Army.
- 20-26 Dec Artillerie Kaserne (4341) and Schuetzen Kaserne (4342), Eberswalde - although the barracks were occupied to capacity, no training activity was observed [] 50X1-HUM
- Comment. These observations indicate that the elms/6th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and army troops of the Twentieth Gds Army, stationed in the above-mentioned casernes, conducted no exercises outside the garrisons.
- 23 Dec 63 Eberswalde - driving school trucks were observed in the city [] 50X1-HUM
- 29 Dec 63 Potsdam - since ten days, normal driving school activity has again been observed with only a few driving school vehicles [] 50X1-HUM
- Comment. The exceptionally intensive driving school training for newly arrived recruits, which started in early November, now appears back to normal.
- 03 Jan 63 Rosslau-Meinsdorf (3401) bivouac, Dessau - 75 soldiers without weapons were engaged in basic training [] 50X1-HUM

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- 03 Jan 64 Jena - 80 soldiers, forming groups, conducted basic training in the Zwaetzen (8221) barracks area, and three groups of 10-12 soldiers each were engaged in basic training in the Loebstedt (8222) barracks area [] 50X1-HUM
- 04 Jan 64 Altes and Neues Lager (2061), Doeberitz - personnel was engaged in maintenance of vehicles and in technical service [] 50X1-HUM
- 04 Jan 64 Doeberitz troop training grounds - approximately 25 EM conducted training with four tanks east of the target ranges [] 50X1-HUM

Comment. Recruit training with troop elements in different army areas.

Summary Comment on Training (GSFG)

Special training for newly arrived recruits conducted with troop elements in several army areas, still continuing in January, corresponds to normal training development. Separate information on this activity supplements observations made within the period from October until December 1963. Several troop elements have largely completed their recruit training program and incorporation of their new personnel. As a result, the conducting of exercises on a large scale and the raising of the training standard of the new personnel have become possible. Main purpose is to familiarize the new personnel with seasonal weather conditions within the scope of winter exercises.

At the beginning of the year, troop units of several armies continued the special training activity of their branches of service at troop training grounds. From 29 December 1963 until 08 January 1964, elms of the army engineer units/Eighteenth Gds Army conducted exercises at the Elster-Gallin troop training grounds, from 06 - 07 January 1964, AAA troop elements/Twentieth Gds Army were engaged in exercises at the Wustrow AA firing range, and since early December 1963, elms of additional units of the same army have been conducting rotational exercises in the Doeberitz - Potsdam area. Since 07 January 1964, elms of the army engineer units/First Gds Tk Army also appear to have started an exercise and training activity outside their garrison.

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4. Weapons, Vehicles and Equipment

ABC-Protection

Areas, contaminated by chemical agents and radiation are mapped in different colours as follows:

Chemical agent		yellow
Radioactive contamination:	0.5 roentgen	blue
	5 roentgen	green
	30 roentgen	red
	100 roentgen	brown
		(press).

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II. Soviet Zone of Germany1. Situation in the Berlin Area and on the Demarcation Linea) Berlin Area

Starting on 07 January and up to 12 January 1964 (period under review), supervisory measures at the sector boundaries and on the West Berlin Demarcation Line section were back to normal again.

Border soldiers closed the sector crossing points opened while the pass agreement was valid.

The extension of the 'border area' proceeded according to schedule; it is noteworthy in this context that numerous apartment houses were pulled down; in many cases, occupants refused to leave voluntarily and had to be evicted [redacted]

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Comment. After the expiration of the pass agreement, the situation in the Berlin area is the same as before 20 December 1963.

b) Demarcation Line

From 07 to 12 January 1964, there was no change in the extent of patrol and observation duty.

Only small-scale work was being done on the border fortifications:

NVA border soldiers were seen to set up small wire entanglements in the Blankenstein (PA 9287) area. In some places, the border soldiers performed tree stump blastings, partly, it was said, with the help of NVA/Ground Forces soldiers. In addition, observations were made of repair and small-scale tree-felling work as well as of observation tower building [redacted]

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Comment. It appears that work on the Demarcation Line fortifications had more or less come to an end by the beginning of the winter of 1963/64. Most of the work observed recently were repairs and local improvements. The tree stump blastings were made in the course of the laying-out or widening of a control strip. The participation in this work of NVA/Ground Forces soldiers appears doubtful.

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2. Location of the NVA/Ground ForcesSchwerin Garrison

In 1962, the transport battalion of the 8th Mtz Rifle Div was transferred from Sternbuchholz to Schwerin [] 50X1-HUM

In August 1963, the 8th Transport Bn, the 8th Tank Repair Shop and the 8th Motor Vehicle Repair Shop were stationed at Schilling Strasse, Schwerin [] 50X1-HUM

Comment. According to the town map, there is no Schilling Strasse in Schwerin. Presumably the Johann Stelling Strasse is meant instead.

In the northern section of the former Fritsch Kaserne, Johann Stelling Strasse (installation No 5544), sentries with black service colours were repeatedly observed; in May 1963, a large number of trucks were determined there.

Hence, the 8th Transport Bn, the 8th Tank Repair Shop and the 8th Motor Vehicle Repair Shop are carried at Schwerin from now on.

3. Training of the NVA/Ground ForcesRegular Training

Since about 04 January 1964, intensified training activities have been going on within and without the garrisons of both MDs, particularly the 3rd MD [] 50X1-HUM

Comment. As had been expected, training - suspended during the Christmas and New Year holidays - has been fully resumed after the New Year leave period (See Weekly No 1/64, C, II, 3, a).

It is considered quite plausible that NVA elements are conducting winter exercises on battalion and, possibly, regimental level.

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4. Border and Security TroopsNVA/Border Troops(1) Border Protection

Full protection is soon to be restored along the Czech border which is thinned out of security personnel at the moment [redacted]

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Comment. Since the reinforcement of forces along the so-called 'national border West' (in 1961), the 19th Indep. Border Regt Pirna has been the only unit to protect the Soviet Zonal border with Czechoslovakia. Its activities were in the main confined to checks at railroad and road crossing points and to maintenance work on border markings and the border signal network. Border control proper was carried out by Czech 'PS' units [redacted]

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(2) Supply Depots

In the premises of the former porcelain factory at Bahnhofstrasse, Kahla, there is a supply depot of the NVA/Border Troops. Starting in August 1962, clothing, motor vehicle, spare parts, and u/i machinery have arrived on trucks and by rail via a siding leading up to the depot [redacted]

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Comment.

[redacted]

The 13th Border Brigade Rudolstadt is thus carried as having two supply depots: one at Dittrichshuette and one at Kahla.

5. SED Industrial Combat Groups (Home Guards)

All able-bodied men ranging between 35 and 60 years of age 50X1-HUM are soon to be integrated into the combat group force [redacted]

Comment. So far, only SED members have been liable by order of the party to serve with the industrial combat groups. The above-mentioned integration of all able-bodied men ranging between 35 and 60 years of age would require a legal basis which does not yet exist.

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6. Weapons, Vehicles and Other Equipmenta) Night Firing Device for AK (submachine gun)

The NVA/Border Troops units stationed in the middle Demarcation Line section have been equipped with a night firing device which was described as follows:

fluorescent mount on front sight,
focusing screen with a round cut-out, which is the rear sight, and subjacent fluorescent point.

'Centred sight' is established when both points between them have the shape of the figure 8

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Comment. Night firing device of a conventional design without outstanding technical innovations.

b) Cross-Country Sedan P 3Technical Data

cruising range	540 km
turning circle diameter	11,8 m
cubic capacity	2407 cm ³
fuel carrying capacity: tank	104 l
1 canister	20 l
minimum speed	3,5 km/h
engine	6 cylinders/4-stroke/Otto, 70 HP/water-cooled
model designation	OM 6 - 35 L
1 generator each for engine and radio set	
Manufacturing firm: 'Sachsenring' Zwickau	<input type="text"/>

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Annex to
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Number	Place	Time	Designation	Report	Evaluation
01	PE 197 723	Oct 63	observer	4 - 5 soldiers with motor vehicles observed near Selmsdorf	<input type="text"/>
02	PE 275 441	Nov 63	observation post	Soviet Army and NVA officers at observation post, presumably at night	<input type="text"/>
03	PE 23 36	Nov 63	reconnaissance group	officers and three soldiers, presumably from Schwerin, engaged in reconnaissance activity in the Testdorf area	<input type="text"/>
04	PD 465 552	Dec 63	radar station	on Fuchsberg mountain near Salzwedel - Pretzier: a radar station with three swivel antennas and several radio link antennas; a concrete road leads to the mountain. Soviet Army convoys with building material possibly indicate improvement of the road.	<input type="text"/>
05	PD 22 49	Nov 63	construction command	on Schwabenberg mountain, between Diesdorf and Reddigau: a TP (trigonometrical point), permanently guarded by Soviet Army soldiers. Entanglement around the mountain (restricted area).	<input type="text"/>

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Number	Place	Time	Designation	Report	Evaluation
06	PC 376 995	Oct 63	point of observation shelter	Soviet Army observation post placed in a shelter equipped with a telescope operating in the direction of Grassleben	<input type="text"/>
07	PC 45 86	Dec 63	control command	one officer and five soldiers permanently at Marienborn autobahn checkpoint. Soldiers are quartered near the Marienborn RR station and brought back and forth by a military bus	<input type="text"/>
8a	PC 154 659	2 Jan 64	shelter observation post	a Soviet Army concrete shelter, occupied by 6-7 EM (presumably since 12 months) located at the northwestern fringe of the Osterroder Holz. The Soviet Army soldiers fetch their drinking water in rubber bags at the Osterrode Agricultural Production Cooperatives. Soviet Army soldiers stationed in the Gross Fallstein area. On 11 Sep 1961, approximately 100 tanks are said to have been observed in the Klosterholz forest (PC 165 645).	<input type="text"/>
8b	PC 17 64	Apr and May 63		Training activity of Soviet Army units was repeatedly observed in the Feldheimer Holz at the foot of Gross Fallstein. Approx. 10 Soviet Army soldiers were permanently stationed at PC 178 641 and at other places. Eighth ZIS-375s, six trucks and one radio car were observed. The Soviet Army soldiers are presumed stationed at Halberstadt.	<input type="text"/>

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Number	Place	Time	Designation	Report	Evaluation
9a	PC 1 4	Dec 63	Soviet Army command	Soviet Army soldiers are stationed on the Brocken mountain. The soldiers are presumably stationed in Halberstadt and are relieved about every four weeks.	<input type="text"/>
9b	PC 1 4	30 Dec 63	Soviet Army command	A Soviet unit of approx. 40-50 soldiers is stationed on the Brocken mountain, presumably a radio, direction finding and measuring station which is guarded by approx. 15 dogs	<input type="text"/>
10	PC 15 16	22 Nov 63	u/i activity	A Soviet Army and NVA march column, including 32 Soviet Army trucks, 45 NVA trucks each occupied by approx. 20 EM was observed near Ellrich	<input type="text"/>
11	NC 83 01	Nov 63	observed	two soldiers of a tank unit on sidecar motorcycles were observed in the Neuendorfer Forest	<input type="text"/>
12	NB 76 97	Dec 63	shelter observer	an observation shelter of the Soviet Army is located in the Mengelroeder Forest, approx. 300 m west of Streitholz. Shelter crew: 5 - 6 EM, including presumably four officers	<input type="text"/>

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Number	Place	Time	Designation	Report	Evaluation
13	NB 9588	Oct 63	Soviet Army unit	In the wooded area west of Gruengershagen , in the so-called Huebstedter Forest: Soviet Army unit. Soviet Army soldiers and officers several times observed on roads and field paths leading from Silbershausen in the direction of Huebstedter Forest. Large part of the forest is restricted area.	<input type="text"/>
14	NB 820 498	Nov 62 to Nov 63	Earth shelter	On the Stechberg mountain, east of Lauchroeden: Soviet Army observation post located in a ground shelter. Personnel: presumably two officers and four EM. Armored personnel carriers, amphibious tanks and sidecar motorcycles, presumably from Eisenach - Kindl, were observed. On 14 November 1963, it was reported to the duty officer of the 3rd Border Co Neuenhof that the arrival of Soviet Army soldiers is to be expected at any time. Works carried out in the 5 km-long restricted zone.	<input type="text"/>
15	NB 7919	May 63	Radio unit	Two Soviet Army radio cars from Naumburg were stationed with the 3rd NVA Border Regt in Dermbach. A 4 m-high antenna was erected. Each radio car was occupied by 1 sergeant and two soldiers. Command: one major and one first lieutenant. The soldiers were relieved approx. every fortnight. Food was brought daily from Naumburg by a sidecar motorcycle. Presumably joint Soviet Army and NVA activity.	<input type="text"/>

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Annex to

Weekly Report No. 2764

Part C - 50X1-HUM

Number	Place	Time	Designation	Report	Evaluation
16	NB 817 096	August 63 October 63	Fatigue detail	In the fields, west of the eastern outskirts of Kaltennordheim - approximately 10-12 Soviet Army officers and soldiers were engaged in surveying. In late September, an aerial conduit consisting of two wires was laid through the surveyed area from Meiningen via Kaltennordheim to Dermbach. In late September, a ground cable was laid by a postal construction detail from Meiningen to the surveyed area.	<input type="checkbox"/> 50X1-HUM
17	NB 8908	October 63	Soviet Army unit	Since 1952, a Soviet Army unit is stationed on Geba near Unterkatz (restricted area near NB 900 054). In October 1963, 10-12 T-55s and 4-5 BM-24s were observed (earlier observations: radar station). Service color: red.	<input type="checkbox"/> 50X1-HUM
18	PA 094 841 PA 132 845	Fall 62		Roemhild pulmonary sanatorium was occupied by Soviet Army at bn strength. Service color: black with yellow barrels. Elms of this bn are stationed in a log-cabin near PA 132 845.	<input type="checkbox"/> 50X1-HUM
19	PA 4180	July 63		Three - four Soviet Army officers, who were clothed in NVA uniforms and inspected the Demarcation Line, were observed in the NVA company quarters.	<input type="checkbox"/> 50X1-HUM
20	TR 95 78	Oct 63		One Soviet Army colonel, one major and one driver, who inspected the Demarcation Line, were observed in the area of the Papstleithen NVA company.	<input type="checkbox"/> 50X1-HUM

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Re-Equipping of Bmr Div Werneuchen With FIREBAR

In late 1963, only Bmr Regt Werneuchen was completely equipped with FIREBAR A (YAK-28), while Bmr Regt Briesen and Bmr Regt Finow were still equipped with BEAGLE (IL-28). 50X1-HUM

Comment. The actual aircraft strength of Bmr Div Werneuchen in January 1964 is assumed to be as follows:

Bmr Regt Werneuchen	=	40 FIREBAR 5 MAESTRO
Bmr Regt Briesen	=	35 BEAGLE
Bmr Regt Finow	=	45 BEAGLE

So far, no FIREBAR have been observed being assigned to Briesen and Finow regiments. From 1962, retraining on FIREBAR (detached by Regt Werneuchen?) has temporarily been carried out at Briesen and Finow airfields. Therefore, it can be expected that these regiments will also be re-equipped with FIREBAR aircraft.

3. Training/24th Tactical Air Army

FRESCO and FISHBED Firing at Ground Targets with Air-to-Surface Missiles

In mid-October 1963, FRESCO (MIG-17) and FISHBED (MIG-21) were observed attacking ground targets with air-to-surface missiles at Gadow-Rosow bombing range.

Nearly every day, both aircraft types conducted 20 to 40 approach flights.

These flights were carried out as follows:

- The aircraft approached from northwest at an altitude of 150 to 300 m,

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- over the target area they zoomed up to 6,000 to 10,000 m,
- dived and attacked the target,
- pulled out of dive at an altitude of 300 m releasing the air-to-surface missiles.

About four missiles were released either simultaneously or individually.

The aircraft departed in northwesterly direction at an altitude of 150 to 300 m.

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Comment. This is an interesting observation, although mistakes have apparently slipped in when estimating the altitudes. Moreover, no notice was presumably taken of the fact that two different attacking procedures were practiced, i.e.

- low-level attacks at ground targets after an Immelmann turn (called "combat turn" by the Soviets, presumably also "loop procedure")
- attacks from high altitudes during a steep glide.

The attack from high altitudes is made in case of emergency if the visibility is poor near the ground; in that case, the aircraft

- approaches the target in a steep glide,
- releases the air-to-surface missile when pulling out of dive (terminated at an altitude of approximately 300 m).

This type of training with FISHBED aircraft can only be considered instruction activity since ground support can only be a secondary mission of fighter regiments equipped with FISHBED aircraft.

The FARMER Ftr Regts Wittstock and Zerbst, in 1963, were employed more intensively than in former years for direct support of ground troops.

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II. Soviet Zone of Occupation of Germany
NVA/Navy

1. Cruising and Training Activity

There was only minor activity at sea during the period under review.

2. Patrol Activity

Patrol activity in the offshore region was normal.

The following vessels were on patrol duty east of Fehmarn:

6 January to 100800 A January KRAKE-Class minelaying
 and minesweeping vessel,

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100800 A January to 12 January KRAKE-Class minelaying
 and minesweeping vessel,

[redacted] 50X1-HUM

HABICHT-Class units, [redacted] (6 to 10 January) and
 212 (10 to 12 January) were patrolling swept channels
 32 and 32 a (Kriegers Flach area). [redacted]

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Comment. Since 20 December 1963 continuous patrol activity
 has been observed in the sea area southeast
 of the Sound.

This new patrol post enables the NVA/Navy to
 observe the entire sea traffic entering and
 leaving the Baltic.

It remains to be seen whether this will be a
 permanent measure.

3. Observations at Sea

On 091300 A January, RIGA-Class escort destroyer,
 [redacted] was observed entering Warnemuende harbor.

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[redacted] 50X1-HUM

4. Build-up of a 6th Flotilla

Upon completion of the quarters Bug on Ruegen Island
 will probably serve as a base for the 6th Flotilla
 which is presently being organized. Construction works at
 Bug allegedly began in August 1962.

In May 1963, the personnel of the Flotilla was stationed
 at Dwasieden near Sassnitz whereas the headquarters
 were in Sassnitz. [redacted]

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Comment. The assumption that Bug on Ruegen Island will become the future base of the 6th Flotilla is substantiated by this and other information.

5. Information on Personnel

In April 1963, Rear Admiral Neukirchen was frequently observed entering and leaving the NVA/Navy command at Rostock-Warnowrande. [REDACTED]

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Comment. When Rear Admiral Ehm in early March 1963 returned to the post of NVA/Navy chief, which had been held by Rear Admiral Neukirchen for one year, the further assignment of the latter was uncertain. The observation made in April 1963 indicates that Rear Admiral Neukirchen has resumed his activity as chief of staff of the NVA/Navy command.

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G. Psychological Situation

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I. SOVIET BLOCNVA Exhibition in Prague

An NVA touring exhibition under the motto "Soldiers of Peace," which the NVA leadership had announced would go on display in the Czech Army Center in Prague on 1 March 1963, was not opened in Prague until November 1963, and when the exposition finally did open in the Czech capital, it was not at the Army Center but on the premises of the Soviet Zone information and cultural center. Earlier the exhibition had opened at Eger on 28 February 1963 and has since been on display in several Czech cities where troops are stationed.

Soviet Cultural Officer Decorated

Professor Alexander Dymshitz, the former cultural officer of the Soviet Military Administration, has been awarded the gold version of the Johannes R. Becher medal by the Soviet Zone government. The professor is the first foreigner honored in this manner.

II. SOVIET ZONE OF GERMANYNew Instructions Concerning Party Work in the Armed Forces

In pursuance of the resolutions adopted at the 6th Congress of the SED (Socialist Unity Party), a new directive governing party activities in the armed forces has been issued in late 1963. The directive, which is headed "Instructions for the SED Party Organizations in the NVA and the Party Organs of the People's Army," grant polit organs (polit officers) an increased say in matters involving the politico-ideological indoctrination of armed forces personnel. An earlier directive governing party work, dated 21 May 1957, has been rescinded.

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Educational Background of Conscripts

Information published in the Soviet Zone indicates that 85.2 percent of the conscripts called up for service in the NVA in spring of 1963 have a minimum of eight years of schooling and that 94.1 percent of these men have completed vocational training.

Polit Surveillance

The following question was posed to all personnel of the 5th Border Co/Brocken (20th Border Regt/Blankenburg) in the presence of polit officers in December 1963: "Would you fire an aimed shot at a border violator trying to climb over a security fence?" All men, except a private by the name of Luettich, answered this question in the affirmative. Luettich was immediately removed from duty at the D-line.

To insure better surveillance of NCOs in the 6th Co of the 28th Mtz Rifle Regt/Rostock, the occupants of each room in the NCO quarters must include an NCO who is a member of the SED.

Improvement of FDJ Work in the NVA

The fact that the NVA leadership are not satisfied with the results of FDJ (Free German Youth) work in the armed forces became apparent at a working session of NVA FDJ functionaries held at Prora on 13 December 1963. At this meeting, it was pointed out that FDJ work in the NVA had to be intensified and emphasis placed on training convinced agitators who are sure of themselves and qualified and prepared to defeat "enemy views" in everyday life. FDJ members should be encouraged to engage in discussions with the aim of convincingly rebutting wrong views and assumptions.

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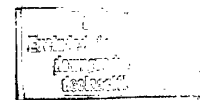
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No. 1/64

Covering the Week Ending on 7 January 1964

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I. Soviet Union1. Combat Effectiveness (GSFG)Personnel Rotation (GSFG)

10 October	Berlin-Weissensee/former Askania Works - presumably "new arrivals", since the discipline observed during the exercises was rather "lax" [redacted]	50X1-HUM
11 November	Weissenfels RR station - a transport train fully occupied by recruits was parked in the direction of Halle [redacted]	50X1-HUM
11 November	Weimar RR station - a parking transport train consisting of 14 box cars was occupied by personnel, including recruits without weapons [redacted]	50X1-HUM
17 November	Saalfeld - mainly goods trains consisting of box cars were observed running on the RR line [redacted]	50X1-HUM
21 November	coming from the direction of Cottbus and moving in the direction of Frankfurt/Oder - approximately 40 closed RR cars. Smoke was observed rising from some RR cars [redacted]	50X1-HUM
23 November	Weimar RR station - entraining of personnel into a transport train consisting of 48 box cars [redacted]	50X1-HUM
24 November	coming from the direction of Cottbus and heading for Frankfurt/Oder - transport train of 45 closed RR cars [redacted]	50X1-HUM
25 November	Weimar RR station - a transport train of 50 box cars was ready for personnel entraining operations [redacted]	50X1-HUM
Late November	Elstal area - German women were repeatedly molested by Soviet Army soldiers. The commander apologized for it saying "that the soldiers have newly arrived and are still to undergo disciplinary procedures" [redacted]	50X1-HUM

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02 December Jena-Zwaetzen Kaserne - approximately 20 soldiers were engaged in basic training [] 50X1-HUM

03 December Neuruppin freight yard - entraining operations of approximately 200 - 300 Soviet Army soldiers, part of them carrying suitcases [] 50X1-HUM

06 December on the Arnstadt - Neudietendorf RR line - a personnel transport train of approximately 50 box cars, without engine, parked in a northerly direction [] 50X1-HUM

Comment. [] information on the personnel rotation development which is a routine measure at this time of year.

2. Training (GSFG)Training at Local Training Grounds

12 December Leipzig - thirty soldiers with submachine guns were observed conducting firing practice and field training at the troop training grounds of the Schoenau (8241) Kaserne; additional 30 soldiers were engaged in entrenchment work with entrenching equipment [] 50X1-HUM

18 December Saaletal engineer troop training grounds, eight kms northeast of Jena - 30 soldiers without weapons, forming groups of six soldiers each, conducted field training [] 50X1-HUM

21 December Deoberitz troop training grounds - 35 soldiers conducted firing practice [] 50X1-HUM

21 December on Highway F-5, near Karstaedt - eight BTRs carrying 57-mm AT guns and eight trucks carrying 120-mm mortars headed for Perleberg [] 50X1-HUM

27 December Loewen Kaserne, Doeberitz - approximatly 80 soldiers wearing winter clothes and without weapons were lined up on the barracks yard [] 50X1-HUM

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[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

Comment. Special training and firing practice, partly with heavy weapons, was conducted by elms/ Eighteenth, Eighth, Twentieth Gds and Third Shock Armies at local troop training grounds

[REDACTED]

Summary Comment on Training (GSFG)

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Continued training at local training grounds and exercises at up to reinforced regimental level at troop training grounds, part of them conducted together with division and army troops, are - as in earlier years - indicative of the training phase preceding winter exercises. On the grounds of the so far normal progress of training, these winter exercises should now begin any time.

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II. Soviet Zone of Germany (Soviet Zone)1. Personnel AdministrationPromotion of NCOs to the Rank of OfficerPress Excerpt:

On 30 November 1963, the Minister for National Defense promoted 18 NCOs of the Erfurt NVA unit to the rank of officer without their having attended an officer candidate school. The 18 best NCOs of the unit who for many years have dutifully done their work as squad leaders, platoon leaders and specialists were presented with the second lieutenant sash and shoulder boards by Col Hollstein, the post senior officer. (Soviet Zonal press)

Comment. Confirmation that, section 25 c of the career code notwithstanding, NCOs can be appointed officers without having attended an officer candidate school []
[] The measure also suggests that the demand for officers can still not be satisfied by the number of junior officers graduating from officer schools each year.

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Col Hollstein is the commander of the 4th Mtz Rifle Div at Erfurt.

2. Situation in the Berlin Area and on the D-Linea) Berlin Area

Again during the period from 30 December 1963 to 6 January 1964, more control was being exerted than usual, particularly at the crossing points. In general, the stream of visitors, particularly strong on 4/5 January, was cleared smoothly. Immediately upon expiration of the pass agreement, border soldiers began to close the barrier gaps at the check and crossing points. Work in the 'border area' was continued on a much lower scale than before. []

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Comment. The reduced employment of working personnel in the 'border area' is partly due to the stand-by measures taken on account of the pass agreement and the consequent step-up of patrol and sentinel employment.

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[redacted] 50X1-HUM

The reduction could also be a result of the granting of holiday leaves - at least in the 2nd and 4th Border Brigades.

The fact that, despite improved possibilities of escape during the visiting period, no border soldier defected to the West would support the assumption that an extensive personnel reshuffle took place recently [redacted]

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b) D-Line

During the period under review (30 December 1963 to 6 January 1964), the extent of control measures was generally the same as before. In addition to their guard duty, NVA/Border Troops personnel had to perform some, if little, work on the border fortifications. Some of the soldiers wore fur caps.

On 30 December 1963, 15 NVA/Ground Forces soldiers conducted several blastings at the highway No. 173 near QA 1283. As a result of one of the blastings, the road was torn up right across. The environments of this blasting point were then searched with mine detectors. Tarpaulins fixed to the barbed wire fence which runs across the F (=Fernstrasse) 173 are to prevent onlookers from watching the work in progress. On 31 December 1963, a screen, 40 m long and 2.5 m high, was set up at this same spot. [redacted]

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Comment. Situation unchanged. The border soldiers employed at the D-Line now wear the same fur caps as the personnel in the Berlin area. The soldiers watched at the F-173 presumably are engineers of the NVA/Ground Forces who, in connection with the overall extension of barricades, performed special work in the above mentioned area. Their employment suggests that the construction is one of particular urgency.

3. Training of the NVA/Ground Forcesa) Regular Training

During the holidays, leaves were granted during either the Christmas period (preferably married soldiers) or the New Year period.

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Training had come to a near-standstill (several F-3)

Comment. It is presumed that, according to the leave regulations (DV 10/14), all units and installations were granted full holiday leaves. Special regulations were supposedly issued for the 1st Mtz Rifle Div in connection with the pass agreement.

Training activities presumably set in again immediately after the second leave period was over (about 2 January).

b) Training Procedures

Press Excerpt:

(Reflections of a company commander on training)

... If target practice has suddenly to be held five days before the originally arranged date, there will be improvisation instead of a methodical approach. We were lucky to obtain half-way satisfactory results at all. This burden we take with us into the new training year. And yet, training targets require that, in a few weeks' time from now, the companies have reached the state of perfect internal interplay, an objective which can only be reached with the "best results" in individual and group training

... I have drawn up the training schedules on the basis of the number of lessons allocated by the battalion to the various lines of individual training. During the first week, the platoon leaders had to be put in charge of training because the squad leaders had not been fit enough at the time. I gave them one more week of instructive-methodical training since I wanted to avoid that my NCOs give a poor performance in the first few days of the training year

Some think that 'practice alarm' is the panacea by which the companies can achieve the desired degree of interplay. In my opinion, it is more important that the soldier be trained towards a squad, platoon and company spirit, that he be convinced that it depends on his personal performance as a machine or submachine gunner whether or not the unit as a whole can fulfil its task.

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Therefore, in individual training, the final 5 to 10 minutes of each instruction period are, as a rule, reserved for various kinds of practice toward perfecting cooperation within a squad. The two weekly firing practice periods, introduced at the beginning of this training year, also help to further cooperation within the squad. (Soviet Zonal press)

Comment. The above report affords an insight into NVA training procedure, which has become rather complicated ever since the introduction of a compulsory 18-month term of military service. In addition, it illustrates the difficulties encountered in practice.

1. The Training Schedule and Its Implementation

In drawing up his training schedule, a company commander is not allowed to deviate from the subjects and the number of training periods (lessons) prescribed by the Ministry of National Defense.

Since the company commander is supposed to simultaneously provide basic and advanced training for soldiers in their 1st, 2nd and 3rd half-year training terms, respectively, the training schedule is extremely complicated and highly susceptible to sudden change or subsequent modification.

Owing to crowded training schedules, much time usually elapses before it is possible to conduct training periods that had to be cancelled earlier for one reason or the other. This is one of the reasons why the men cannot be trained as thoroughly as they should be.

2. Training Objectives

The 'immediate objective' of any new training term is to place the company as a unit, in a state of combat readiness within "a few" weeks. Training consequently is bound to be fairly superficial and one-sided instead of thorough and comprehensive.

3. Training Method

The superficial and one-sided nature of training in certain functions - which, depending on their degree of difficulty, are assigned to personnel of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd half-year terms, respectively, - is a shortcoming accepted by the authorities. The idea is to make up for this shortcoming during the term of service as a whole. However, the success of this method is curtailed by the usual difficulties:

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- lack of time,
- lack of sufficiently qualified instructors,
- exaggerated training requirements.

4. Instructors


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Despite all efforts made in recent years the problem of insufficiently qualified instructors has not yet been solved. 

One of the major reasons for this probably is the intense dislike of the "honor to serve" on the part of the intellectual elite of the youth.

Finally, it is noteworthy that particular significance is attached to firing practice. In the 1963/64 training year, two hours per week are scheduled for this type of training instead of the former one hour per week.

c) Engineer Training(1) Construction of an Underwater Bridge

From 20 May to 20 June 1963, the 2nd Bn/12th Engr Regt was in the Nitzow (UU 0263) summer camp. During that period, it built an underwater bridge across the Havel River. The construction of such a bridge being something entirely new, it was preceded by two weeks of preparatory practice. The actual bridge-throwing was made in the presence of officers from the Engineer School, the 2nd Engr Regt (Kuechensee) and the 1st and 9th Engr Bns (Kirchmoeser, Eggesin). The bridge was a makeshift one made of wood and fixed 15 cm below the surface. A ramming ferry (equipped with four rammers) drove the poles up to 4 meters into the bottom of the river. The bridge was 3 meters wide and had a carrying capacity of 60 tons. 

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Comment. First report on the construction of an 'underwater bridge' by NVA/Ground Forces engineers. The bridge-throwing obviously was for demonstration in addition to training purposes. The data on carrying capacity and width are, however, not correspondent. The construction of a 60-ton bridge makes sense only if it can also be used by tanks (tank widths: T-34: 2.99 m; T-54: 3.27 m).

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(2) Construction of an Ice Bridge

In February 1963, the 12th Engr Regt was employed near Risa (US 8285) to build an ice bridge across the frozen Elbe River. For this purpose, pontoons were unloaded on the bank and then drawn onto a previously marked bridge line. But since the ice was very lumpy, the pontoons could not be connected. Shortly afterwards, another such attempt was made near Goettlin (UU 1835) across the Havel River. This time, the experiment was successful because the ice cover was fairly even. The construction took, however, 14 to 15 hours.

[REDACTED] 50X1-HUM

Comment. This is the first report on the construction of ice bridges by NVA/Ground Forces engineers. In either case, the bridge building seems to have been an experiment with the sole purpose of connecting the pontoons drawn onto the bridge line. It appears that no ice-blasting took place. Normally, the ice is blasted open after the pontoons have been connected to lower the bridge into the water.

4. NVA/Ground Forces PersonnelCol Krysmann Now Commanding 1st Mtz Rifle DivPress Excerpt:

"During a consultation hour, the commander of the Krysmann unit gave valuable hints to young officers". (Soviet Zonal press)

Comment. On 2 December 1963, the former commander of the 1st Mtz Rifle Div, Col Gotthilf, was appointed commander of the NVA/Ground Forces Officer Candidate School at Loebau

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The Krysmann unit is stationed in the area of the 5th MD, Neubrandenburg.

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5. Border and Security Troops

NVA/Border Troops in the Berlin Area

Training

On 9 December 1963, Lt Gen Riedel, Maj Gen Poppe, Maj Gen Peter and the chief of the Central Customs Administration inspected the 1st Security Company stationed at the Drewitz checkpoint (4th Border Brigade) during an exercise entitled "Breaking Through the Checkpoint".



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Comment. This explains the report on the presence of many officers at the Drewitz checkpoint on 9 December 1963.

The presence of Lt Gen Riedel confirms that the border troops stationed in the Berlin area are subordinate to the Ministry for National Defense.

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I. Soviet UnionTrainingAir Activity With 24th Tactical Air Army

Since early December 1963, Ftr Bmr Regt Grossenhain has conducted only little air activity. On few days, in clear weather, individual aircraft took-off for extended circuits. [redacted]

Comment. [redacted]

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Flight training at Grossenhain airfield was still intensive in mid-November 1963, also in bad weather, and was almost completely stopped from 23 November 1963 to early January 1964. Due to various indications there is the impression that the air activity with the 24th Tactical Air Army (except with Air Trans Regts) has considerably been reduced since about 23 November 1963.

A general and distinct "technical stop" of all fighter regiments/24th Tactical Air Army, as observed in recent years, has not yet been identified after the end of the 1962/63 training year.

The following reasons very probably account for the considerably reduced air activity observed for 6 weeks:

- thorough overhauling of the entire technical equipment,
- theoretical training upon personnel exchange,
- leave.

A slow intensification of flight training activity has been observed since 3 January 1964.

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II. Soviet Zone of Germany

1. Personnel Administration

Decorations (Press excerpt)

"On the occasion of the completion of the 1962/63 training year on 15 November 1963, Lt Gen Kessler, Deputy Minister for National Defense, in the name of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, awarded an efficiency badge of the People's Army, a pennant, and a certificate to the winners of a special type of personal competition within troops" ... (then follow the names of commanding officers and pilots). (Eastern press)

Comment. The above information confirms that the training year had already ended in early November 1963; this explains the notably little air activity observed with the NVA Air Force/Air Defense in November and December 1963.

2. Location

a. Dessau Airfield

Between 11 and 25 November 1963, Dessau airfield was not occupied. The quarters housed a guard detail of NVA Ground Forces.

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Comment. The 17th Air Trans Wing, formerly stationed at Dessau airfield, transferred to Dresden-Klotzsche on 4 November 1963. No information has been received on the further utilization of Dessau airfield.

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b. Cottbus Airfield.

During the last 10 days in November 1963,
Cottbus airfield was occupied by approximately
30 FRESCO (MIG-17). 

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Comment. Cottbus airfield is still occupied
by the 1st Ftr Wing of the 1st Air
Defense Division.

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II. Soviet Zone of Occupation of Germany

NVA/Navy

Patrol Activity

Normal patrol activity in the offshore region.

HABICHT, Pt.No. 214, controlled the swept channels 32 and 32 a.

The following vessels were on patrol duty east of Fehmarn:

- 20 to 24 December 1963 KRAKE-Class minelaying and mine-sweeping vessel, [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- 24 to 29 December 1963 KRAKE-Class minelaying and mine-sweeping vessel, [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- 29 December 1963 to 4 January 1964 KRAKE-Class minelaying and minesweeping vessel, [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- 5 to 6 January 1964 KRAKE-Class minelaying and minesweeping vessel, [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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