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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT 1. Types of Border Guard Watch
2. Border Guard Defense Plans

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Comment: In paragraph 7, for Main Border Guard Administration
read Chief Directorate of Border Troops.

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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The material in the following report covers four types of border watch activity in effect under varying conditions. The first two conditions concern those routine peace time border guard activities involved in surveillance for the purpose of sealing the border against individual violators. The last two conditions describe the two types of border guard defense activity against armed enemy groups bent on overt forceful penetration.¹

NORMAL AND INTENSIFIED BORDER GUARD WATCH

Normal Watch

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the normal watch was in force when there were no indications of imminent border violations. Under such conditions all border guard officer and enlisted personnel were on an eight-hour guard duty day (excluding training time).

Intensified Watch

2. Intensified watch conditions prevailed when there were indications of violations or intended violations of the border area either from within the USSR or a neighboring country, or when it was ordered by higher headquarters for practice purposes.
3. under an intensified watch condition it was not uncommon for all border guard personnel to be on duty from 12 to 18 hours daily, and for posts along the border to be increased considerably and manned on a 24-hour basis. All training was cut from three hours to one or even suspended.
4. In an intensified watch, an officer surveillance (ofitser'skoye nabludeniyе) was invoked in the border guard unit area and behind the frontier itself. This involved continuous roving inspection by border guard commissioned personnel for the purpose of maintaining a tightened security system. Activity of the border guard's secret agent network in border areas was also intensified as well as the activity of the more overt cooperative brigades (brigady sodeystviya) of informants.
5. During a state of intensified watch, all echelons which were normally engaged in checking personnel activity and travel were also required to intensify their activity. This included the civil police (militia), railway and vital statistics registration offices, local MVD operational agent offices, etc.

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BORDER GUARD UNIT DEFENSE PLAN (PLAN OBORONI)

General

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every border guard unit, regardless of size, had a definite plan which was concerned with the defense of its immediate sector of responsibility against armed attack.

7. By a directive issued by the Main Border Guard Administration in Moscow, this unit plan was required to be instituted in all border areas contiguous to non-Satellite countries. It was to be approved by the next higher border guard unit headquarters, to be continuously improved, and, on occasion, to be tested by practical exercises. It was to encompass that defense solution which was deemed most adaptable and practicable for the given sector and terrain.
8. The continuous revision and bringing up-to-date of the unit defense plan in each border guard unit was the direct and continuing responsibility of the unit CO at every level; this revision was accomplished with the coordination of subordinate CO's whose own plans, beginning with the zastava level, were incorporated and fused to make up the plan of the next higher unit.

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Duties

9. [] CO of the 2nd Komendatura [] had to personally accomplish a detailed visual reconnaissance of his area, consider all possible approach routes, defense positions, fields of fire for various weapons, travel time by different modes of transportation from various points to other pertinent points within his area of responsibility. 25X1

[] All of the data compiled [] in [] detailed study [], when favorably reviewed at the detachment level, was then incorporated into [] unit plan which was approved by detachment. Later, pertinent portions of [] approved plan were incorporated into the detachment plan, etc. 25X1

10. [] the "master plan" [] was classified secret and maintained at the komendatura headquarters. In any unit, only the CO and, on levels where there was an operations section, the chief of that section would know the role of his unit in the plan of the next higher headquarters, the complete plan of the given unit, and those of subordinate units. 25X1

Plan of [] Unit

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11. []
12. [] the defense plan incorporate [] all of the following features among others of a similar nature:

- a. Informational data on and detailed schematic drawings of the most practical routes of attack in the vicinity of Kushka by an armed enemy group; these included routes of communications and supply, natural obstacles, and other terrain features.
- b. Present locations and proposed areas of deployment [] 25X1
- c. Circumstances under which they would be alerted.
- d. Proposed firing positions and fields of fire.
- e. Proposed function in emergency of each individual [] duty stations, and responsibilities. 25X1
- f. Calculations showing type and number of support troops required from higher headquarters and by lower headquarters under different circumstances; at what points, when, from where, how, and by what routes they could be expected to arrive.
- g. Schematic drawings and charts to show types of vehicles and loads needed under different combat circumstances.
- h. Details on liaison, communications, and reconnaissance responsibilities.
- i. Evacuation plan for wounded, to include proposed locations for aid stations, and evacuation points.
- j. Schematic sketches of proposed withdrawal and assembly areas.
- k. Designation of responsibility for the evacuation of dependents. This included evacuation plans detailed as to means, time, and places of evacuation, as well as a roster of evacuees.

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1. Destruction priority list of documents and equipment and designation of officers responsible for destruction of documents.

m. Evacuation priority for secret documents.

Practice Alerts

13. Practice alerts, to test the efficiency and timing of border units in carrying out unit defense plans, were the responsibility of the unit CO or the next higher headquarters. There was no set time or frequency for these practice alerts. [] the calling of an alert was a rather informal affair. [] a typical alert as follows:
 - [] CO of the komendatura [] would go to any [] subunits at any time, regardless of the day or hour, find the duty officer (dezhurny), and say to him, 'There is an unidentified force of (any type of enemy) uniformed men of battalion size proceeding toward area one, do your duty, this is practice.' From this point, the duty officer would awaken all of his troops, by either firing his weapon in bursts, or getting the first sergeant to awaken the men. The CO of the alerted unit would then be called to report to (his own) headquarters. He would then assume command and direct all moving-out operations. The troops would never take to the field; the only thing that was required in these alerts was that they be assembled, roll call taken, and then they would stand by for orders. The CO of the alerted unit would then [] report how long it took to get ready to move out, the exact time that he was ready to move out and to where the unit was to be moved. [] then give the order to return the troops to the barracks, and critique the alert with the CO of the alerted unit, point out deficiencies, give reprimands, and advice to the CO on how to remedy the deficiencies. []

MUTUAL BORDER GUARD - ARMY DEFENSE PLAN (PLAN VZAIMODESTVIYA)

General

14. [] in addition to the plan discussed in the preceding section which was purely a border guard activity normally encountered at the komendatura and detachment level for purely local defensive purposes, that there was also a system of plans set up to cover cooperation between nearby army units and border guard units should such interaction appear warranted. These were called mutual action plans.

Kushka Area

In the Kushka area, the mutual action plan was worked out between [] komendatura, the [] Border Guard Detachment [] and the 347th Rifle Div., which also had headquarters at Kushka. An alert SOP had been worked out by border guard and army authorities at Kushka to provide for the following:

- a. Within 10 minutes after notification of an attack, one battalion of infantry from the 347th Rifle Div. was to be at [] disposal as the [] Border Guard Komendatura CO.
- b. Upon notification that an attack was in progress, the division CG was responsible for alerting his troops and dispersing them in combat formation to engage the hostile force.
- c. After initial contact had been made by division troops, the division CG was to assume command of the area, and all troops, including border guards within the area then become directly subordinate to him.

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- d. After the combat situation appeared to have stabilized, or upon direction from higher headquarters, the border guard unit was to be relieved; sent to the rear to take over rear area defense, and the army division CG would assume entire responsibility for the front.

15. At this time, the komendatura was to assume responsibility in the rear area for the following:

- a. Defense against airborne troops.
- b. Road and railroad security.
- c. Military traffic control.
- d. Suppression of partisan groups.
- e. Security of military depots and storage areas.
- f. General maintenance of order.

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the local army-border guard plan had been sent forward to the headquarters of the Turkestan MD in Tashkent for army approval

it had been worked out jointly and in complete cooperation with border guard and army officers participating in all phases, and it had been tested in local border guard-army maneuvers and exercises under both day and night conditions.

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17. Concerning the question of separate army access to the border, the army could not, under any circumstances, conduct independent maneuvers in the border area; that any army operation in the border area required border guard sanction. This control was carried to the extent that "the border guard would not even allow army colonels to go rabbit hunting on the border".

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