

376

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.		50X1
SUBJECT	Military and Civil Defense Training	DATE DISTR.	19 December 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	7	
50X1TE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		50X1
50X1ACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED				

LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA C ODES--17

3-02-0406	12/55
238.3	27M
161.3	27M

(+1)

50X1  
CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

50X1

**CONFIDENTIAL**REPORT NO. 

50X1

**COUNTRY** Czechoslovakia**DATE DISTR.** 21 Nov. 1955**SUBJECT** Military and Civil Defense Training**NO. OF PAGES** 6

50X1

**DATE OF INFORMATION****REFERENCES:****PLACE ACQUIRED****THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

50X1

Zapotocky Military Technical Academy in Brno

1. In 1951 the Dr. Edward Benes Technical Institute (Vysoka skola technicka), located in the area defined by Zahradnikova, Veveri, Hrnecirska, and Leninova Streets in Brno, was reorganized and renamed the Zapotocky Military Technical Academy (Vojenska technicka akademie Antonina Zapotockeho). Whereas the Technical Institute had departments for electrical engineering, machinery construction, construction engineering, and mining engineering, the Military Academy had the following departments: aviation, both engine construction and fusilage; tank construction; civil engineering, and electrical engineering (source did not know whether the latter concerned itself with weak or strong current electricity). The studies presented in each of the above departments lasted for eight semesters. (Source did not exclude the possibility that there might still be one or two departments at the Military Academy other than the ones he reported.) Each department at the Military Academy offered two courses, i.e., the standard technical course and the commanders' technical course. The standard technical course was similar to the one offered at the civilian technical institute and graduates were usually assigned to factories producing military items. Upon completing the commanders' technical course, graduates were appointed as officers in charge of military technical installations.

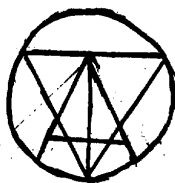
**CONFIDENTIAL**

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

2. When the Technical Institute was reorganized into the Military Academy, students who had completed three years of work at the Institute were given a choice of (a) finishing their studies as civilians in their selected fields or (b) assuming military status. If they chose the latter, they were compelled to change their curricula to conform to military specifications. All students who had completed less than three years of school had to transfer as civilians to another technical school in Czechoslovakia or continue at the Academy changing, of course, from civilian to military status. This also entailed changing their selected fields of study to those offered by the military. No special political qualifications were required for students in the standard technical course; however, only those whose loyalties to the Communist Regime could be proven beyond doubt were admitted to the commanders' technical course. For example, source knew it was impossible for anyone having relatives living abroad to be admitted to the commanders' technical course.
3. Students attending the Military Academy were considered to be on active duty with the Czechoslovak Army and the time spent at the Academy was counted as their regular compulsory military service. Each student, before being admitted to the Academy, signed a statement to the effect that he would serve three years of active duty with the Army for each year he attended the Academy. Nevertheless, graduates of the standard technical course were released into civilian life prior to the expiration of their term if they so desired, which was the case with the majority of the graduates. This practice did not apply to graduates of the commanders' technical course, however.
4. The students in the aviation department wore blue uniforms with blue shoulderboards similar to those worn by the Czechoslovak air force units. In the other fields the students wore olive drab uniforms similar to those worn by the regular soldiers of the Czechoslovak Army. All students wore narrow white stripes on their right sleeves above the cuff which indicated the number of years they had been studying under the military engineering program. On their shoulderboards they wore a black-striped NCO insignia and brass metallic devices of from two to three cm. in diameter with the letters "VTA" on them. A sketch of this device follows:



After graduation, students were appointed officers with ranks ranging from second lieutenant to captain depending on the capabilities and political reliability of the individual. The graduate officers wore a badge in the shape of a star on the left side of their uniform with the letters "VTA" imprinted on it. In the Academy's early years (1951 - 1952) a large percentage of the students were women. This was due to the fact, source believed, that in the initial years there were not enough men to fill the

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

enrollment. When the academy achieved popularity and had no difficulty attracting male students, the percentage of female students rapidly decreased.

5. All male students slept in the former Kaunic and Susil student dormitories which were located approximately one km. from the Academy. They messed in a newly constructed kitchen in the Academy area. Students received free tuition, housing, and food, as well as a monthly pay which source believed was much higher than that of a regularly drafted Czechoslovak serviceman. Consequently, they were much better off than students who received scholarships to a civilian technical institute. Source did not know if the students were assigned to a special military type unit. He knew they received military training somewhere in the Brno area but could not provide any details.
6. General Lomsky (fnu), was commanding officer of the Academy. Source believed he was transferred in 1954 but did not know who his successor was. Professor Pisek (fnu), taught fusilage construction in the standard technical course. He was a member of the Czechoslovak air force unit stationed in England during World War II. Professor Kaucky (fnu), was an instructor of mathematics.
7. Source personally knew two graduates of the Military Academy. One of them, [redacted] majored in machinery construction at the Benes Technical Institute. When the Institute was re-organized into the Military Academy, subject desired, as did several other students, to finish his studies as a civilian at the aviation department, fusilage construction, standard technical course. He was told this was possible. However, shortly after the semester started, he was asked to resign or change to military status. Therefore, subject and the majority of the students changed to military status. He graduated in 1952, was appointed a second lieutenant or lieutenant, and sent to an aircraft factory in Kbely (N 50-09, E 14-34) where he worked on fusilage construction. Source believed that the factory produced fusilage for civilian aircraft only. The factory was under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense until 1953, at which time it was put under civilian control. As a result of this action, the military personnel in the factory were given a choice of remaining on active duty with the Army or becoming civilians. [redacted] workers reverted to civilian status and continued to do the same work. In doing so they suffered a substantial decrease in salary. His co-officers who elected to stay on active duty remained in the factory as military representatives. Source's other acquaintance at the Academy, a confirmed CP member, studied tank construction in the commanders' technical course and graduated as a captain in 1954. He was sent to a military training area in Eastern Slovakia. In early summer 1955, he was transferred to a training area in Poland for a one-year tour.

#### Czechoslovak Army Officers in Korea and the USSR

8. Source knew a graduate of the Prague Commercial Institute who was inducted into the Czechoslovak Army in 1954 for regular compulsory duty. Subject was sent to an officer candidate school in Cesky Krumlov (N 48-49, E 14-19) for one year. He was then

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

sent as an NCO to an unknown barracks in Jihlava (N 49-24, E 15-35) where he served with an anti-aircraft unit. Source was unable to provide further details. in Jihlava, subject was promoted to the

50X1

50X1

in the Sumava Mountains somewhere in the area between Klatovy (N 49-24, E 13-18) and the Czechoslovak-German border. On about 22 December 1954, subject was summoned from Jihlava to a military headquarters in Prague. Subject did not know the purpose of the trip and did not think his commanders at Jihlava knew either. At Prague headquarters subject met about 20 officers from various units, most of whom possessed foreign language ability. The officers were asked to volunteer for a one-year temporary assignment somewhere in Korea. Source did not know what type of duty they were to perform. Some of the officers volunteered and some of those who declined were ordered to go. Subject returned to his unit in Jihlava. Source believed that the entire Korean program was carried out in extreme secrecy.

9. Since 1952, a Major Häusler or Halek (fnu), about 35 or 40 years of age, from an unidentified unit in Vyskov (N 49-17, E 17-00), had been attending a high military school in Moscow. This training was to last for three years. In addition to the major there were five other Czechoslovak Army officers attending the same school. The major returned to Czechoslovakia on leave once every year. When he finished at the military school, the major was to be appointed to the Czechoslovak Army General Staff. Source received

50X1

#### Training of Reservists

10. In 1953, all former servicemen employed were informed by the cadre official that they might be required to attend from two to three months of active duty training. Several months later, source believed, some of the reservists were actually drafted for such training. One of them, a book-keeper and a second lieutenant or lieutenant in the reserves who had once received training as an automatic rifleman in the infantry, was assigned to an unidentified training camp in 1953 for what source believed to be classroom training. In the summer of 1954 the same individual was sent for practical training to a camp located somewhere in Eastern Slovakia. When he returned from the 1954 summer training, subject told source he had been trained as an AA gunner and had spent a greater part of the two to three months shooting at towed targets and learning the identification of different types of aircraft. Source understood that reservists who were to have training other than AA training were sent, for two or three months, to the Libava military area (somewhere between Olomouc and Krnov N 50-06, E 17-43). Source stated that several reservists from his enterprise, he did not know if they were officers or EM, were sent to this area but he was unable to describe them.

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

11. Source believed the reservists who occupied important positions in their places of employment were not obliged to leave for a training center. Instead, they trained in the city where they worked. Source believed that the cadre official of their enterprise or office arranged each special case. Source believed this was the case with the Chief of the Commercial Department in his enterprise. He was 32 years of age, a private in the reserve, and, in the past, had served only a few months of his compulsory military service. He took his military training on weekends somewhere in the Brno area. Source could not provide further details. Source knew of still another reservist whose case differed from the two examples mentioned above. For instance, the chief accountant in source's enterprise was a reserve infantry officer and he attended a class in military training one evening a week. Apparently the purpose of this class was to teach reserve officers modern military terminology.

Civil Defense

50X1

12.

building the enterprises jointly employed approximately 170 people of whom the majority were women. In 1953, various groups for civil defense purposes were formed by the women and the few men who were not soldiers. About 40 employees joined these groups which consisted of from five to seven people each. The following groups were formed: (a) first-aid group; (b) fire-extinguishing group; (c) chemical group; (d) air-raid shelter group -- the shelter was in the basement of the building, although no equipment such as helmets, masks, or arm bands was issued; and (e) a communication group, whose duty it was to deliver all oral or written messages by foot. The manager of source's enterprise was appointed head of the civil defense organization in the building. Another employee in the same enterprise was appointed as a so-called "Regional Inspector for Civil Defense." His task was to make certain that the enterprise shops distributed throughout the Brno Region were covered by the civil defense system. Source was made a member of the first-aid group. In 1954 this group attended a one week full-day course conducted by the District National Committee in Brno. Roughly 40 people from the District participated. Civilian medical doctors gave instructions on bandaging, handling of broken bones, treatment of injuries received in auto accidents, and other basic medical needs. During the last 20 minutes of the last hour on the last day, mention was made of atomic warfare injuries. The instructor stated that such injuries were usually minor and that people wearing white clothing would not be wounded unless they were in the middle of the explosion. The treatment of atomic warfare injuries was not discussed, however.<sup>1</sup> Upon satisfactorily completing the course, source received a certificate and a small pin with a red cross on it. The first-aid group was equipped with three small emergency first-aid packs and two stretchers. During 1954, the civil defense organization in source's building held two air raid drills. An Army major inspected the procedure at the last drill and briefed the commanders of the groups on the results. Source did not know the military unit to which the major was attached.

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 6 -

13. Source knew of several buildings in Brno which had civil defense organizations similar to the one existing in his building. Therefore, he believed they were organized in every building where industrial enterprises or government offices were housed. One civil defense group was always organized for the entire building regardless of how many enterprises or offices it contained. On the other hand, source did not know of any instance where a civil defense group was formed in an apartment house. However, he did know of a few housewives who were obliged to undergo civil defense classes given by their respective District National Committee. These classes demonstrated first-aid techniques and methods of extinguishing fires.

50X1

1. Comment: Several recently received reports indicate that both Soviet and satellite military and civilian personnel were being told that reported effects of atomic explosions on humans are exaggerated. Several Soviet were told that the ordinary chemical cape will afford a good measure of protection, and in one Czechoslovak civilian group, individuals were told to hold newspapers over their heads.

50X1

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL