

## CRACK BLOC UNITS USE NATO UNIFORMS IN TRAINING

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[Text] At the Ohrdruf training range--in the southwest of the GDR--a small exercise took place in the spring of 1972. Soldiers of the National People's Army (NVA) had the task of penetrating secretly some military objects of its own 7.7 [presumably 11th] Motorized Infantry Division. Soldiers guarding these objects had arms with live ammunition and had deliberately been kept in the dark about this exercise.

The protagonists of this guerrilla exercise were soldiers of the "Willi Saenger Troop Component." This is the cover name of the 5th Paratrooper Battalion of the NVA whose quarters is a former Third Reich Recreation Program settlement in Prora on Ruegen Island.

But the members of this crack unit are not only trained and equipped for the classical combat varieties of the paratroopers of all armies of the world--air-landing by helicopter or parachute--but also for combat in civilian clothes or for missions in NATO uniforms in the hinterland of the West European NATO states in a case of tension.

### Surprise Attack in Peace

The Soviet Union has eight airborne divisions of the guards, these divisions probably will be used as a "heavy hammer" to carry out strategically essential air landings in case of war. Under the intermediate command level the two Soviet combat helicopter regiments stationed in Parchim and Stendal since last year would have the task of transporting several infantry battalions far forward to take and hold bridges. Within the tactical framework similar tasks would fall to the respective first company of every Soviet infantry regiment. It is trained as a "Rejdoviki Rota," a command company for helicopter attacks.

But hours or days prior to combat action it would be the turn of special paratrooper units such as the Fifth Paratrooper Battalion.

Their attacks would be a surprise action in the middle of peace--practiced successfully once before by the special paratrooper units: the night-time occupation of Prague Airport as an overture of the occupation of the CSSR in 1968.

The mission of all of the Warsaw Pact subversive paratrooper units include:

Commando operations in the uniform of NATO forces against military installations;

Support and guidance for guerrilla gangs already existing in NATO countries;

Kidnaping of political or military personages;

Coups against important tactical and strategic points;

Systematic creation of chaotic conditions in NATO's rear deployment area by detouring convoys of vehicles (disguised as Allied military police), by assaults and provocations (example: Eastern paratroopers, disguised as Bundeswehr soldiers, suddenly shoot at U.S. troops).

The model for all subversion forces of the Warsaw Pact are the Soviet enemy reconnoiterers who, in World War II, had organized guerrilla warfare deep in German-occupied Russia.

#### Uniforms from Prisons

Only volunteers reliable in the sense of communism are admitted to these special units, and this only if they already had undergone at least 2 years of paramilitary training and if they have volunteered as soldiers for extended service. Anyone passing the barracks gate at Prora for the first time as a conscript of the National People's Army paratrooper unit already is a highly qualified parachutist. Now the young man is a soldier at Prora and **undergoes** a hard basic training for 3 months. This is followed by a 2-year special training in combat operations of three arms of service: that of motorized infantry, of reconnaissance, and of paratroopers.

Then follows the 1-year special advanced training: an agents' course for conspirative work and language courses in English and French. Soldiers with special talents for languages then carry out exercises in uniforms of the British Rhine Army or the U.S. Seventh Army. Other NVA paratroopers periodically take on the role of soldiers of the Bundeswehr and perform their duty tour according to the regulations of the Bundeswehr. Their uniforms were tailored in penitentiaries of the "GDR."

The training of the 6th Polish Airborne Infantry Division in Krakow proceeds similarly although it has a strength of barely 4,000 men. Some of these soldiers are ethnic Germans, who are taught accent-free German in German-language lessons; some of these soldiers even learn Danish.

All told, the following special paratrooper units are stationed in the eastern forefield of Central Europe:

The 5th Paratrooper Battalion of the NVA in Prora; another paratrooper company stationed in Cottbus since the fall of 1973 (possibly the cadre of a new battalion); the Soviet paratrooper regiment for special missions in Neuruppin; the 7th Special Paratrooper Regiment of the CSSR Army in Holsejev; the 6th Polish Airborne Division in Krakow.

All these components are subordinated to their respective Supreme Command authorities: directly to the Ministries of Defense. The Soviet regiment in Neuruppin is subordinated to the "Group of Soviet Troops in Germany."

But in case of war--to go by some indications--they will be commanded by a special command in Moscow, presumably by the KGB.

There, in the first main administration (foreign reconnaissance) a newly established "Administration W" exists; the headquarters for guerrilla warfare guidance. The section following the guidance department of "Administration W" is specialized on the Federal Republic.