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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) RUSSIA (RS).

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 RUSSIAN NAVY'S 89TH MISSILE REGIMENT, V/CH 10544, IN SNEZHNOGORSK-1 (U)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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(b)(1),1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ THE 89TH MISSILE REGIMENT, V/CH 10544, WAS ASSIGNED TO THE **RUSSIAN NAVY'S** NORTHERN FLEET AND STATIONED IN SNEZHNOGORSK-1 ON THE **KOLA PENINSULA**. THE REGIMENT'S MISSILES WERE OF UNKNOWN TYPE. THE UNIT WAS RATED COMBAT-READY.

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ THE 89TH MISSILE REGIMENT (REGT), V/CH 10544, WAS ASSIGNED TO THE RUSSIAN NAVY'S NORTHERN FLEET AND WAS STATIONED IN SNEZHNOGORSK-1 (CNA), A MILITARY GARRISON LOCATED APPROX 20 KILOMETERS (KM) DIRECTLY NORTH OF NORTHERN FLEET HEADQUARTERS (HQ) IN SEVEROMORSK (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i). SNEZHNOGORSK-1 WAS LOCATED ON A SMALL PENINSULA (12 KM IN LENGTH) SITUATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE KOLA ZALIV (BAY) (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i). THE

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MISSILES ASSIGNED TO THE REGT WERE MOUNTED ON TRUCKS. HOWEVER, NEITHER THE TYPE NOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSILES ASSIGNED TO THE REGT WAS KNOWN, NOR WERE ANY DETAILS AVAILABLE REGARDING THE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MISSILES IN THE UNIT. THE NORTHERN FLEET CLASSIFIED THE 89TH MISSILE REGT AS A NAVAL INFANTRY UNIT, EVEN THOUGH NO INFANTRY PERSONNEL WERE ACTUALLY ASSIGNED TO THE REGT. AS A RESULT OF ITS NAVAL INFANTRY CLASSIFICATION, OFFICERS AND CONSCRIPTS WORE NAVAL INFANTRY RANKS, RATHER THAN THE RANK DESIGNATIONS ASSIGNED TO NAVAL PERSONNEL WHO SERVED ON SHIPS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE 89TH REGT'S COMMANDER WORE THE RANK OF COLONEL (COL) RATHER THAN CAPTAIN 1ST CLASS, THE LATTER RANK BEING THE RUSSIAN NAVY'S FLEET RANK EQUIVALENT OF COL.

2. ~~(S)~~ THE REGIMENTAL HQ AND HOUSING FACILITIES WERE LOCATED ON ONE CASERN, WHILE ITS MISSILES, VEHICLES, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WERE MAINTAINED ON A SEPARATE INSTALLATION. THE LATTER INSTALLATION WAS LOCATED 4 KM FROM THE HQ CASERN. IT WAS NOT KNOWN IN WHICH DIRECTION FROM THE HQ BASE THE EQUIPMENT FACILITY WAS LOCATED. THE MAIN STRUCTURE ON THE BASE WHICH CONTAINED THE HQ WAS A FIVE-STORY BUILDING. THE GROUND FLOOR WAS USED FOR THE STORAGE OF SMALL ARMS, UNIFORMS, BEDDING, AND OTHER SUPPLY ITEMS. THE REGIMENTAL HQ WAS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR. LIVING QUARTERS FOR CONSCRIPT PERSONNEL WERE FOUND ON THE THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH FLOORS. FAMILY HOUSING UNITS FOR OFFICERS WERE LOCATED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE HQ INSTALLATION. OTHER BUILDINGS LOCATED ON THE CASERN INCLUDED A TROOP MEDICAL CLINIC AND A DINING FACILITY.

3. ~~(S)~~ THE REGT HAD A TOTAL PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF APPROX 270. THERE WERE 130 CONSCRIPTS IN THE REGT; THE REMAINING PERSONNEL CONSISTED OF OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS. THE REGT'S COMMANDER WAS A U/I ETHNIC RUSSIAN COL.

4. ~~(S)~~ AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR, THE REGT CONDUCTED FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES, EACH LASTING APPROX 1 MONTH, ON THE RYBACHIY PENINSULA

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IN 1998, THE REGT HAD PLANNED TO CONDUCT A THIRD TRAINING EXERCISE ON THE RYBACHIY PENINSULA, BUT FOR UNKNOWN REASONS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO. DURING FIELD TRAINING MANEUVERS, THE REGT CONDUCTED LIVE-FIRE EXERCISES WITH ITS MISSILES.

5. ~~(S)~~ PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN THE REGT TO PERFORM THEIR MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE, CONSCRIPTS RECEIVED BOTH BASIC AND SKILL TRAINING AT THE ARMY TRAINING CENTER LOCATED IN PECHENGA-1

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BASIC TRAINING LASTED 1.5 MONTHS AND FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON PHYSICAL TRAINING. DURING BASIC TRAINING, EACH CONSCRIPT WENT TO A FIRING RANGE ON ONE OCCASION TO FIRE A TOTAL OF

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NINE ROUNDS FROM THE AKS-74 ASSAULT RIFLE.

6. ~~(C)~~ SKILL TRAINING FOR CONSCRIPTS VARIED IN LENGTH, DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF TRAINING THAT A SOLDIER RECEIVED. THE QUALIFICATION COURSE FOR TRUCK DRIVERS LASTED 1.5 MONTHS. DRIVERS WERE TRAINED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE KAMAZ-4310 TRUCK. IN THE 89TH MISSILE REGT, DRIVERS OPERATED MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF TRUCK, SINCE THE VEHICLE MODELS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT INCLUDED THE KAMAZ-4310 AND THE ZIL-131. TRUCK DRIVERS ASSIGNED TO THE REGT SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME PICKING UP RATIONS AND OTHER SUPPLIES AT NORTHERN FLEET HQ IN SEVEROMORSK AND TRANSPORTING THEM TO SNEZHNOGORSK-1.

7. ~~(C)~~ DURING THE 21 MONTHS THE AVERAGE CONSCRIPT SERVED IN THE 89TH MISSILE REGT, HE WENT TO THE RANGE TO FIRE HIS ASSIGNED WEAPON, THE AK-74 ASSAULT RIFLE, A TOTAL OF TWO OR THREE TIMES. A CONSCRIPT FIRED A TOTAL OF 30 ROUNDS EACH TIME HE WENT TO THE RANGE. SOME CONSCRIPTS WERE ALSO TRAINED TO FIRE U/I LIGHT MACHINE GUNS.

8. ~~(C)~~ THE REGT CONDUCTED ALERTS AT LEAST THREE TIMES A MONTH. WHEN AN ALERT WAS CALLED, EACH MEMBER OF THE UNIT IMMEDIATELY DREW HIS WEAPON AND REPORTED TO HIS ASSIGNED ALERT STATION WITH HIS WEAPON, PROTECTIVE MASK AND SUIT, AND FIELD EQUIPMENT. THE ALERT STATION FOR MOST ASSIGNED PERSONNEL WAS THE INSTALLATION THAT CONTAINED THE UNIT'S VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT. DUTY TRUCKS WERE KEPT PARKED NEXT TO THE HQ/TROOP BARRACKS AT ALL TIMES SO THEY COULD TRANSPORT TROOPS FROM THE HQ INSTALLATION TO THE EQUIPMENT FACILITY AS SOON AS AN ALERT WAS CALLED.

9. ~~(C)~~ SENIOR OFFICERS FROM NORTHERN FLEET HQ IN SEVEROMORSK CONDUCTED FREQUENT INSPECTIONS, NORMALLY SEVERAL PER MONTH, OF THE REGT'S TWO INSTALLATIONS IN SNEZHNOGORSK-1, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE UNIT WAS COMBAT READY. BECAUSE THE REGT RECEIVED GOOD EVALUATIONS DURING THESE INSPECTIONS, THE NORTHERN FLEET RATED THE UNIT AS A WELL-LEAD, COMBAT-READY ORGANIZATION.

10. ~~(C)~~ THE UNIT'S VEHICLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WERE WELL-MAINTAINED AND IN GOOD CONDITION. SUPPLIES OF DIESEL FUEL AND GASOLINE FOR THE VEHICLES WERE ADEQUATE.

11. ~~(C)~~ MORALE AMONG BOTH OFFICERS AND CONSCRIPTS ASSIGNED TO THE REGT WAS GOOD. UNIT PERSONNEL RECEIVED THEIR PAY ON TIME EACH MONTH. THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF FAMILY HOUSING FOR OFFICERS. THE OFFICERS REGARDED DUTY ON THE KOLA PENINSULA AS TOLERABLE. FOR ONE THING, SUMMERS IN THE REGION, ALBEIT BRIEF, WERE CONSIDERED WONDERFUL. FOR THEIR PART, THE CONSCRIPTS BELIEVED THAT THEY WERE TREATED WITH RESPECT BY THEIR OFFICERS. THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER WAS SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE AS A DECENT, NORMAL MAN WHO, WHEN HIS

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SCHEDULE PERMITTED IT, TOOK THE TIME TO CHAT WITH HIS TROOPS AND ASK THEM HOW THEY WERE DOING. ALSO, THE CONSCRIPTS RECEIVED ENOUGH TO EAT IN THE DINING FACILITY, AND WERE ISSUED UNIFORMS THAT PROVIDED ADEQUATE WARMTH DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

12. ~~(S)~~ CONSCRIPTS WHO DID NOT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ACCEPTING NORMAL MILITARY DISCIPLINE HAD NO PROBLEM COMPLETING THEIR 2 YEARS OF OBLIGATORY SERVICE. THE ONLY ANNOYANCES WERE RELATIVELY MINOR AND OCCURRED WHEN A CONSCRIPT FOUND HIMSELF PULLING KITCHEN DUTY OR SOME OTHER DETAIL 3 OR 4 DAYS IN A ROW. THE TRAGEDY THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE NORTHERN FLEET IN THE SUMMER OF 1998, WHEN A SAILOR ASSIGNED TO A SUBMARINE UNIT WENT BERSERK AND FATALLY WOUNDED SEVEN OF HIS FELLOW CONSCRIPTS, WAS WIDELY DISCUSSED IN THE 89TH MISSILE REGT. THE CONSCRIPTS IN THE REGT WERE OF THE OPINION THAT, AS FAR AS CONDITIONS IN THEIR OWN UNIT WERE CONCERNED, NO ONE WOULD HAVE A REASON TO GO ON SUCH A KILLING SPREE, AS THE SITUATION THEY ENCOUNTERED WAS BY NO MEANS INTOLERABLE.

COMMENTS: ~~(S)~~

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ADMIN

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