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1. Defence Policy: Promotion to General of the Ukrainian Army

On 15 February 2010, the President of Ukraine – Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Viktor Yushchenko, issued Decree № 175/2010 promoting Chief of the General Staff – Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Colonel-General Ivan Svyda, to the military rank of General of the Ukrainian Army.

Comment: As of February 2010, since Ukraine became an independent state there have been five promotions to this rank in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, all told. The promoted officials were: the Defence Minister V.G.Radetskyi in 1993, the Defence Minister O.I.Kuzmuk in 1998, the Chief of the General Staff V.P.Shkidchenko in 2001, the Chief of the General Staff S.O.Kyrychenko in 2007, the Chief of the General Staff I.Yu.Svyda in 2010.

2. Security Policy: Subcommittee on the Russian Black Sea Fleet

On 15 February 2010, the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, signed Decree №171/2010 approving a new composition of the Subcommittee on the Russian Black Sea Fleet functioning and stationing in the Ukrainian territory. The said Subcommittee is part of the Russia-Ukraine Interstate Committee.

Comment: The Ukrainian part of the Subcommittee will henceforth be headed by the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Volodymyr Handogii. The Defence Ministry is represented in the Ukrainian part of the Subcommittee by the Deputy Defence Minister, Valerii Ivaschenko; Assistant to the Defence Minister, Sergii Blyzniukov; Commander of the Ukrainian Navy, Ihor Tenukh. The Subcommittee was established in December 2005 as part of the Russia-Ukraine Interstate Committee headed by the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine.

3. Combat Training: Firing Exercise for Units and Formations of the Ukrainian Armed Forces

On 16 February 2010, military personnel of units and formations within the 13th Army Corps went to a training area to exercise armoured infantry vehicle gunnery, APC gunnery; practice firing antitank grenade launcher and small arms.

Comment: Combat training activities were conducted using the training facilities "Verbliany" of the International Peacekeeping and Security Centre in Lviv Region; mountain sports facilities and military shooting range on the mountain terrain in the Uzhgorod sector of the training area; in the Mukachevo sector of the training area; in the Volodymyr-Volynskyi training area, and in the Chernivtsi training area.

In 2009, due to inadequate support to the UAF and failure to meet all the UAF requirements, the number of costly activities (tactical and command-post exercises in the field) was drastically reduced. Intensity of combat training in the UAF was lowered, on average, by 10-15%. Replacing practical combat training activities with classes on theory lowered its effectiveness by almost 25%. At the same time the proportion of high-quality, but costly, forms of training within the total number of training activities was reduced by over 40% as against 2008.

4. Combat Training: Tank T-64B Gunnery

On 17 February 2010, a tank battalion of the 30th Separate Guard Mechanized Brigade of the 8th Army Corps exercises T-64B gunnery.

Comment: The training activity is held in the brigade training area, namely the Oleksandrivsk Training Centre. Due to the limited amount of fuel the tank battalion of the 30th Separate Guard Mechanized Brigade cannot afford to execute fully all combat training activities.

Similar problems hampered training of Army tank units last year as well. This impelled commanders to look for alternative capabilities with which to enable personnel training. For instance, in order to cut back the cost of training activities in 2009 pantograph was put back in service. This device enables tank gunners to hone their skills in operating the rotation gear and the elevating mechanism to aim turret-mounted weapons of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles. The device also makes it possible to assess the precision of aiming of fighting vehicles weapons as well as evaluate readiness of crews without having to conduct a live fire exercise.

5. Combat Training: Flights of Naval Aviation

For the first time in this year scheduled flights were performed by the Saky Naval Aviation Brigade.

Comment: This year's training is conducted against the background of eminently limited financing of both the Armed Forces in general and the Navy in particular. The financial resources suffice only to maintain the minimal training level of Naval aircraft crews. For instance, in 2009, the average flying time of Naval aviation crews amounted to 28h 19min in the Joint Rapid Reaction Force and 5h 13min in the Main Defence Force. This constituted only 48% of the 2008 showings.

Restoration of lost skills of personnel in the future will require investment of funds that constitute 5-7 times the amount of money required for routine training. Complete restoration of flying skills for just one crew is going to cost the state over 1 million UAH and require 3-4 months of intensive flying during a year.

6. Peacekeeping: Training of the 56th Ukrainian Separate Helicopter Detachment in Liberia

On 17 February 2010, at the base of the 56th Ukrainian Separate Helicopter Detachment in Liberia, a Combat Control Group performed a training sortie in order to exercise helicopter aiming at ground targets and conduct scheduled search-and-rescue training for peacekeepers.

Comment: During their operational tour, members of the Combat Control Group performed over 250 practical aiming exercises. Altogether, helicopter pilots of the 56th Ukrainian Separate Helicopter Detachment operating as part of UNMIL spent 662 hours in the sky, transported over 2 600 passengers and almost 90 tons of cargo.

7. Multinational Exercises: Plan of Multinational Military Exercises in 2010

17.02.10. The Defence Ministry developed a Plan of Multinational Military Exercises in 2010 and forwarded this plan to the Ministry of Justice for endorsement.

Comment: The Plan for 2010 provide for Ukrainian units' participation in 21 multinational exercises. 9 of those exercises will be conducted in Ukraine and 12 outside Ukraine. After the Plan has been endorsed by the Ministry of Justice, it will be forwarded to the Presidential Secretariat to be approved by an appropriate presidential decree. After that the Plan must be approved by the National Security and Defence Council and the Parliament. In 2009, the Supreme Council of Ukraine did not pass the bill that sanctioned admission of foreign military personnel into the Ukrainian territory for participation in multinational exercises. It foiled the plans to conduct multinational military exercises in Ukraine which had to be replaced by computer-assisted command-post exercises without troops. At the same time Ukrainian military personnel took part in exercises conducted in other countries.

8. International Cooperation: Military Transport Operation "Northern Falcon – 2010"

17.02.10. The Ukrainian and Danish Ministries of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the conduct of the joint military-transport fuel transfer operation "Northern Falcon – 2010".

Comment: The Joint Danish-Ukrainian operation "Northern Falcon – 2010" is scheduled for April 2010. According to the operation plan the Ukrainian military transport aircraft Il-76MD is to transfer up to 500 000 litres of fuel and other freight from the US Air Base Thule to the Danish polar station "North" in Greenland. 561 422 litres of aircraft motor gasoline, 200 passengers and over 60 tons of other useful freight were transported in the framework of the similar operation "Cossacks on the Ice Floe – 2009",

9. Ukraine-NATO: Bilateral Cooperation between Ukraine and the USA.

17.02.10. A workshop is being held in the Central Officers' Club of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This is the second workshop on harmonization of Ukraine-US bilateral cooperation activities in the framework of Ukraine's Annual Membership Action Plan.

Comment: The workshop is conducted in plenary sessions and syndicates. The anticipated outcome of the workshop is the Draft of the appropriate Harmonization Matrix. In the course of the briefings the Ukrainian side familiarized the US delegation with the UAF achievements in the framework of implementation of the Annual Membership Action Plan; in civil-military relations; logistic and joint exercises; Ukrainian servicemen taking part in operations under NATO auspices.

All in all, according to the Chief of the General Staff, Colonel-General Ivan Svyda, the total cost of material and technical assistance provided to the UAF by the US amounts to almost \$92 million. This assistance includes providing state-of-the-art communications equipment, simulation systems and personnel training. Cooperation with the US constitutes the largest proportion of bilateral cooperation activities in 2009. The number of international cooperation activities with defence agencies of different countries in 2009 is presented in Annex to IAR DN 7/2010.

10. Weapons and Equipment: Repair of Indian Aircraft An-32

16.02.10. As provided for by the contract signed by Ukraine and India, the first batch of Indian aircraft is arriving to Ukraine for repair in March.

Comment: Ukraine is modernizing 40 An-32 aircrafts out of 114 aircrafts that are currently in service in the Indian Air Force. The first two aircrafts will be serviced by Aviation Scientific and Technical Enterprise "Antonov" and the rest of the aircrafts will be taken care of by the Kiev Civil Aviation Aircraft Repair Plant. According to India's plans, another 65 aircrafts will be modernized at the Air Force plant BRD-1 in Kanpur.

The works are being carries out in compliance with the contract signed on the 15th of June 2009 by the State self-sustained foreign trade enterprise "Spetstechnoexport" (Kyiv) and Joint Secretary (Army and Air Force) of the Defence Ministry on behalf of the President of India. The estimated cost of the contract amounts to \$400 million.

11. Social Security: Housing for Servicemen

17.02.10. The Supreme Council of Ukraine backed up a bill at the first reading on providing housing for servicemen.

Comment: There bill contains propositions to use the accumulation (savings account) system. This system provides for a mechanism when the UAF or other formations, in compliance with the Ukrainian Law, will put money on servicemen's accounts at certain interest for as long as they stay in the Armed Forces. After a serviceman retires he can use the accumulated interest money to build or buy a place to live in. There also propositions to introduce and use housing certificates for construction or purchase of dwellings. In addition, servicemen with 15 and more years of service should be entitled to buying dwelling for 50% of its price, the remaining 50% being paid from the State Budget allocations for sustainment of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and other military formations.

Number of International Cooperation Activities between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and Defence Agencies of Other Countries in 2009

