



## “Red Berets” University Chosen to Train Russian Military Police



Moscow Higher Military Command School on Red Square, 2015.

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MVVKU\\_04.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MVVKU_04.jpg), CCA 4.0 Intl

there was no specialized military police training; the recruits were taken from all corners of the military and all specializations. Only the military police have access to MosVOKU as their specific training school and the new specialized training. As the excerpt points out, this new training is a part of “a major reform of the structures for maintaining discipline and law and order in the troops.” Military police have had a high-profile role in Syria where they had functional and symbolic duties in contemporary development of Russian peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in operational art. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rodger)**

**OE Watch Commentary:** According to the accompanying excerpt from the pro-Kremlin site, *Izvestiia*, “over the past few years, the Ministry of Defense has been undertaking a major reform of the structures for maintaining discipline and law and order in the troops.” As a part of this undertaking, the article reports that the Moscow Higher Combined Arms Command School (MosVOKU) will be the exclusive training site of Russian military police. This change was only recently finalized but had been in development since 2017.

MosVOKU has a history of prestige in Russia, and a tradition of being closely tied to the country’s leadership. It was founded in December 1917, roughly a month after the Bolshevik Revolution began. The article notes that graduates from the school were called “Kremlin Cadets” because they were often assigned to service in the Kremlin protecting Soviet state officials. Because of this, and their critical role in the defense of Moscow in World War II, cadets of MosVOKU are the only such cadets who are allowed to graduate on Red Square.

The military police, as a separate branch, is a fairly recent addition to the Russian Armed Forces. It was formed in 2011, and its shape and powers have developed over time. Initially,

***“Starting next year, officers of the VP will begin to graduate from the Moscow Higher Combined Arms Command School (MosVOKU)... Graduates of the school disperse to military units throughout the country, but they are always proud that they received lieutenant shoulder straps at the walls of the Kremlin.”***

**Source:** “«Кремлевские береты»: выбран вуз для подготовки военных полицейских (“Kremlin Berets”: Chosen University to Train Military Police),” *Izvestiia*, 26 October 2020. <https://iz.ru/1078381/roman-kretcul-aleksei-ramm/kremlevskie-berety-vybran-vuz-dlia-podgotovki-voennykh-politceiskikh>

The Ministry of Defense has identified a training location for the military police. Starting next year, officers of the VP will begin to graduate from the Moscow Higher Combined Arms Command School (MosVOKU). Previously, lieutenants for this structure were trained in various educational institutions and even at the Military Institute of Physical Culture and Sports in St. Petersburg. MosVOKU is the most famous military school in Russia, which has the privilege of graduating right on Red Square, which is why its students are called “Kremlin cadets”. According to experts, such a choice will have a positive impact on the quality of the work of military police.

The first recruitment of cadets for the specialty “Use of military police units” was held in MosVOKU in 2017 as an experiment. And although the release of these “red berets” will take place only next year, the experiment has already been recognized as a success. The past years have shown that the educational institution was chosen successfully, the sources of *Izvestia* in the military department told. And from next year the training of military police officers in MosVOKU will become permanent.