



Putting Science Companies to Work

OE Watch Commentary: The Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) continues to develop and expand the “science company program” for college graduates who need to complete their mandatory, one-year term of military service. As the accompanying excerpt from the popular daily, *MK Online*, points out, under this program, select university graduates complete their “compulsory service” by contributing “important research and scientific and technical developments.” In this case, select graduates of the “Severodvinsk Shipbuilding and Machine-Building Technical College” have been “mobilized to build nuclear submarines.” The MoD maintains that these young scientists will contribute to both the military’s research and development, and that upon completion, a portion of these students will put their talents to use within military industry, either as military officers or full-time defense employees. The excerpt describes some of the specific jobs assigned to these new recruits: “turner, ship’s fitter, assembler of hulls of metal vessels, and milling machine operator,” claiming that such labor “will make it possible to preserve work skills.” While these soldiers may spend a portion of their time with research and development, the excerpt states that “the main aim is to provide defense industry complex enterprises with young workers and specialists to fulfill the state defense order.”

The second excerpt, from the main government source, *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, describes additional details about these new science companies. A large contingent (160 recruits) will be “assigned for service to Anapa, where the building of the Era military innovation technopolis is being completed...” The new center is scheduled to begin “operations on 1 September and [will] have in its structure four new science companies.” Another contingent of “20 smart boys from Tula, with engineer diplomas included...” will be based and perform military training three days a week in the local 106th Airborne Division. The rest of the time they will work at Tula defense enterprises, including those manufacturing the modern Pantsir-S missile/gun systems and Grad, Uragan, and Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems.” The article concludes with some overall statistics about this program, noting that since its inception in 2013, “approximately 2,000 persons have performed this service.” Of these, about 20 percent have elected to remain on active duty as officers, while about the same amount “are now working in defense industry as civilian specialists.”

The Russian leadership continues to experiment with programs which allow bright young men to fulfill their military obligation while actually contributing to the country’s defense needs. Not too long ago, Russian recruits were sometimes forced to help build dachas for senior officers; today they are helping to construct submarines and other advanced weapon systems. **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

Source: Sergey Valchenko, “Минобороны сформировало научно-производственную роту судостроителей (Defense Ministry Forms Science and Production Company of Shipbuilders),” *MK Online*, 3 July 2018. <http://www.mk.ru/politics/2018/07/03/minoborony-sformirovalo-nauchnoproizvodstvennyu-rotu-sudostroiteley.html>

Arkhangel'skaya Oblast Military Commissariat has formed the first science and production company from new recruits of the spring draft. They will perform compulsory service in Sevmash shops. The press service of the shipbuilding enterprise told MK that the new recruits will be mobilized to build nuclear submarines....

...In the course of their compulsory service gifted young men replenish military science with important research and scientific and technical developments. The science and production companies have a different task – to ensure that young people who have come to work in the most important defense enterprises do not leave them for a year for the sake of compulsory military service.

The Educational Center for Training Junior Specialists of the Navy's Joint Training Center has assisted Sevmash in organizing the science and production company. Fifty new recruits who have had secondary vocational education will do their compulsory service here. This is the main requirement for candidates for service in the “production” subunit. All 50 draftees completed Severodvinsk Shipbuilding and Machine-Building Technical College. In addition, they received good vocational training and production experience in Sevmash shops during their studies....

Service in such a company requires such work specialties as turner, ship's fitter, assembler of hulls of metal vessels, and milling machine operator. Service in a science and production company will make it possible to preserve work skills.... The main aim is to provide defense industry complex enterprises with young workers and specialists to fulfill the state defense order.

Source: Yuriy Gavrilov, “Хоть ученый, но все же солдат. В Российской армии создали еще четыре научные роты (Perhaps a Scientist, but Still a Soldier. Four More Science Companies Have Been Formed in the Russian Army),” *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, 5 July 2018. <https://rg.ru/2018/07/05/v-armii-sozdali-eshche-chetyre-nauchnye-rotы.html>

More than 400 soldier volunteers, who had earlier been selected for science companies, have left for military service from the induction stations of 48 components of the Russian Federation....

Some 160 of the recruits of specialized subunits have been assigned for service to Anapa, where the building of the Era military innovation technopolis is being completed at this time. Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu says that it is to begin full-fledged operations on 1 September and have in its structure four new science companies....

...20 smart boys from Tula, with engineer diplomas included, have acquired a unique opportunity to perform their constitutional duty without time off from work, so to speak. They will be based and perform military training three days a week in the local 106th Airborne Division. The rest of the time they will work at Tula defense enterprises, including those manufacturing the modern Pantsir-S missile/gun systems and Grad, Uragan, and Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems....

To speak as a whole, though, as of 2013, when the first science company appeared in the Russian army, approximately 2,000 persons have performed this service. One out of every five has preferred, following conscript service, to remain on parade, but with officer status now. Roughly the same number of former scientist soldiers are now working in defense industry as civilian specialists.

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Continued: Putting Science Companies to Work

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President Putin and Defense Minister Shoigu being briefed on the Technopolis Era project, February 2018.

Source: <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/56923> CC BY 4.0.

Compendium of Central Asian Military and Security Activity

By Matthew Stein

Since Central Asian states gained independence in 1991, new regional military and security alliances have been created (some of which are Russian-led), new military partnerships with non-NATO countries have been established, a number of joint military exercises have been conducted, over a dozen high-profile incidents of violence and civil unrest have taken place, and military installations have been used by foreign militaries. While this activity gained attention, it has not been collectively compiled. A compilation of this activity can serve as a guide for current and future military and security involvement in Central Asia.



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