



Continued: In the Rucksacks of the Sofrino Brigade: Snickers and Pork Fat

“Our main mission is to approach the enemy without being seen, to check how many people they have, what they are armed with, how their camp is equipped, etc. They used to say: ‘As soon as shooting starts, the reconnaissance mission ends.’ But these days everything is different. Reconnaissance groups often have to destroy the bandits. This was especially the case in the North Caucasus. This is why we constantly rehearse such situations.”

*-Russian National Guard Captain Igor [National Guard scouts do not give their full names], Sofrino
National Guard Brigade*

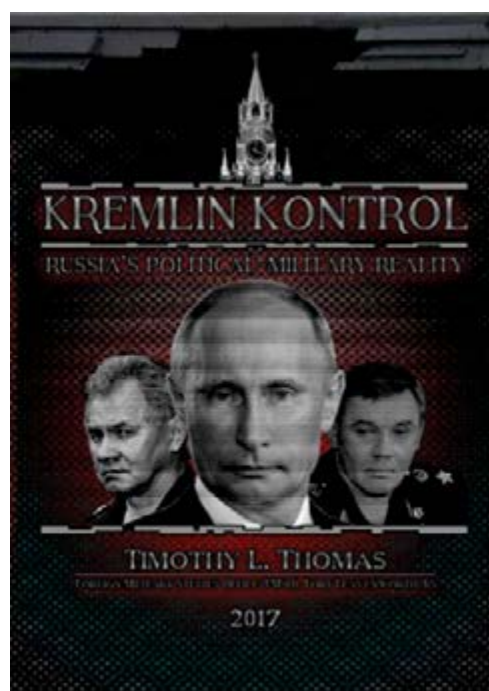
Russian NBC Arctic Training in 2017

OE Watch Commentary: Russian Nuclear-Biological-Chemical (NBC) troops conduct decontamination of areas, vehicles and personnel. They are also in charge of flamethrowers and smoke screens. The Russian Army uses a lot of smoke screens with particulate smoke which defeats visual and sensor detection. Smoke is particularly important- and often difficult to lay- when conducting amphibious landings and riverine operations. The accompanying article describes mounting the TDA-3 smoke generator unit on a 61st Naval Infantry Brigade vessel to lay a smoke screen to cover landings. The TDA-3 is a newer system that provides quicker and larger coverage than earlier systems. It uses an aircraft engine to disperse an aerosol fog in a horizontal or vertical pattern. The experimental combination of smoke generator and fast boat for laying smoke screens may become a regular feature of Arctic amphibious landings.

The article also describes Northern Fleet NBC exercises to mask garrison cities. It is unclear whether the smoke screens over the cities were actually conducted. However, in September 2016, the closed port city of Severomorsk was actually concealed under smoke for three days. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The year 2017 marked a turning point in re-equipping the NBC Protection Troops’ units and subunits with modern equipment -- the latest RKhM-6 NBC reconnaissance vehicles built on the of the BTR-80 armored personnel carrier, TDA-3 smoke vehicles mounted on the KamAZ truck chassis, and ARS-14KM mobile decontamination stations, which can also be used for laying down smoke screens. The new equipment significantly boosted the combat capabilities of the Northern Fleet’s NBC protection subunits...”

- Captain First Class Sergey Mihaylyuk, the head of the Northern Fleet’s NBC protection service



KREMLIN KONTROL by TIMOTHY L. THOMAS

In 2016 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov instituted sweeping changes that have reorganized the country’s security forces and reestablished the nation’s military prowess. This study, Kremlin Kontrol, aims to describe how control over the security services and the military have hastened those changes.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/197266/download>

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Continued: Russian NBC Arctic Training in 2017

Source: “The Northern Fleet’s NBC Protection Specialists Have Won Prizes at Different All-Army Competitions”, *Northern Fleet Press Service*, 13 November 2017. <http://www.mil.ru>

The main training efforts focused on increasing the level of professional skills of the personnel of NBC protection units and subunits in order to perform designated missions and on improving special tactical training for subunits.

The Northern Fleet conducted a selection for the field training competition for NBC protection subunits. Безопасная Среда-2017 [Safe Environment-2017], was held during the winter training period. It involved 29 NBC protection crews (NBC reconnaissance, operators of engine exhaust smoke systems) from the fleet’s formations and separate units.

A combined team was formed during the selection process. It consisted of servicemen from the Northern Fleet’s separate NBC protection company and NBC protection specialists from the fleet’s motorized rifle brigades. The team performed well at the all-army competition....

A crew from the fleet’s separate NBC protection company came in third in the category “The best aerosol countermeasures crew” among teams from military districts, branches and arms of service, and MOD-subordinated units.

At the International Arctic Forum, which was held in Arkhangelsk in March 2017, the fleet’s NBC protection specialists demonstrated a high level of professional skills and cohesion in their actions while ensuring the safety of the forum’s participants. The Northern Fleet’s NBC protection specialists provided continuous monitoring of the NBC environment. An NBC reconnaissance crew from the fleet’s separate NBC protection company performed particularly well. This crew had been tasked with monitoring the NBC situation at secured sites. To reach those sites, the crew travelled more than 3,500 kilometers over a winter road in an UAZ-469RKh (year of manufacture: 1978) without a single serious breakdown. This year, modern NBC reconnaissance vehicles based on the BTR-80 arrived in the company to replace UAZ-469RKh vehicles.

Between 14 July and 10 August, the fleet’s NBC protection specialists held a training muster in a field camp outside Alakurtti military base. The command and staff acquired the experience of commanding and controlling an NBC protection task force, which can be created in peacetime to contain and manage the consequences of technogenic [nuclear leaks and toxic spills] accidents.

At the end of August 2017, the separate NBC protection company and NBC protection subunits from the Northern Fleet’s formations took part in a special exercise for NBC protection troops, conducted under the leadership of the head of the NBC Protection Troops of the Russian Armed Forces.

During the preparation stage of the exercise, a concept was devised to carry out an unconventional tactical maneuver which would involve the joint use of the fleet’s technical capabilities and those of the NBC Protection Troops. The concept was to adapt a powerboat to lay smoke screens. A landing craft provided by the Kola Flotilla’s assault ship formation was used as the vessel and the newest model TDA-3 smoke generator, normally mounted on a KAMAZ-truck chassis, belonging to the naval infantry brigade, was used for smoke generation.

The TDA-3 was chosen because this smoke generator can place a raised smoke screen without covering the speedboat itself, which allows the boat to maneuver safely. This combination was tested for the first time in the Gryznaya Guba on 15 August 2017. It showed an exceptional efficiency in laying a smoke screen to the shore.

During the exercises conducted by the Northern Fleet’s forces in September, they rehearsed missions for the aerosol concealment of the main base at Severomorsk, as well as the garrisons of Polyarnyy, Gadzhiyevo, Zaozersk, and Vidyayevo. A large number of training exercises depicted a notional deterioration in the NBC situation in the fleet’s area of responsibility. Specialists from the NBC Protection Troops practiced decontamination of terrain, weapons, and military equipment.

Captain First Class Sergey Mihaylyuk, the head of the Northern Fleet’s NBC protection service, summarized this year’s performance. “The year 2017 marked a turning point in re-equipping the NBC Protection Troops’ units and subunits with modern equipment -- the latest RKhM-6 NBC reconnaissance vehicles built on the of the BTR-80 armored personnel carrier, TDA-3 smoke vehicles mounted on the KamAZ truck chassis, and ARS-14KM mobile decontamination stations, which can also be used for laying down smoke screens. The new equipment significantly boosted the combat capabilities of the Northern Fleet’s NBC protection subunits...”

When a River Runs Through It: Riverine Operations in Contemporary Conflict

By LTC (R) Lester Grau, LTC (R) Leroy Denniston

Waterways and population centers will be factors in future war. Frequently they will be collocated and will become operational key terrain. Riverine operations will be a part of future military actions and will be an Army problem. The best way to prepare for a future problem is through study, training, and equipment design and development.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-monographs/195094>