



Tactical Shooting: Integral Part Of Russian Combat Training

OE Watch Commentary: The Kalashnikov assault rifle family of small arms was never particularly accurate, nor was it designed to be. It was designed to provide automatic, suppressive fire out to 300 meters that would keep the enemy's head down while the Soviet tanks and infantry penetrated their defensive positions and finished them off. Longer-range effective fire was provided by designated marksmen ("snipers" with longer-range weapons) and machine guns. A new approach to small arms combat is emerging in the Russian Army. As the accompanying passage from *Krasnaya Zvezda* discusses, the Russian Army is now introducing tactical shooting, developing the reflexes and muscle memory for close-in, accurate, rapid infantry fire fights commonly found in urban terrain and dense forest.

Tactical shooting is time and ammunition intensive; the Russian Army previously restricted tactical shooting training to elite direct-action forces. Now, according to the accompanying article, the Russian Army is considering this training as part of regular unit training for all its small-arms infantry. Fitting this into the regular training year will be a challenge, but, if successful, will produce very effective squads and platoons. It will also be a powerful recruiting tool. Soldiers enlist for the infantry expecting this type of training, but rarely get it. Tactical shooting training for all the infantry is a lofty, perhaps unattainable, goal. And that training must be repeated regularly. Most likely, the elite forces will get it first. This will not be part of conscript soldier training due to all the other things that must be accomplished in a short period of service. The good news is that, tactical shooting and the Kalashnikov assault rifle go hand-in-glove. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“Army tactical shooting is becoming an integral part of combat training. Orders issued by the Russian defense minister to introduce exercises with elements of practical shooting to the weapon training of troops already are being implemented.” -Lt. Gen. Yunus-Bek Yevkurov

Source: Aleksandr Pinchuk, “Решено ввести в войска новую военно-прикладную дисциплину (It Has Been Decided To Introduce a New Applied Military Discipline to the Troops),” *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 30 August 2019. <http://redstar.ru/ressheno-vvesti-v-vojska-novuyu-voenno-prikladnuyu-distsiplinu/>

It Has Been Decided To Introduce a New Applied Military Discipline to the Troops

A session of the organizing committee for establishing the Federation of Army Tactical Shooting and introducing this form to the weapon training program was held in the Patriot Park Multifunctional Fire Center under the direction of Lieutenant General Yunus-Bek Yevkurov, deputy defense minister of the Russian Federation. Participating in the session were Colonel General Ivan Buvaltsev, Chief of Russian Federation Armed Forces Main Combat Training Directorate and representatives of RF Armed Forces branches and combat arms, of RF Defense Ministry central military command and control entities, and of the Russian Federation of Practical Shooting. Before the session began the deputy head of the military department familiarized himself with the infrastructure of Russia's largest shooting center, which permits practical shooting on its site of any kind of small arm and competitions not only on an all-army scale, but also of a world level.

Conclusions on the need for such an introduction were drawn on results of the first Armed Forces Practical Shooting Championship in 2018 for purposes of improving servicemen's weapon proficiency level and their effective use of organic small arms. The deputy defense minister noted that training sessions and competitions had been organized in the Armed Forces from the end of last year with the rehearsal of army tactical shooting exercises, taking into account the specifics of missions being performed by servicemen.

“Based on results of training sessions and competitions in army tactical shooting conducted in the winter training period of the 2019 training year, the defense minister decided to establish the Federation of Army Tactical Shooting,” Lt Gen Yevkurov stated.

Based on session results, the deputy head of the military department charged members of the organizing committee with preparing and submitting to the RF Armed Forces Main Combat Training Directorate within prescribed time periods proposals on the composition, structure, goals, missions, and procedure for establishing the Federation of Army Tactical Shooting.

Lt Gen Yevkurov charged representatives of RF Armed Forces branches and combat arms and of central military command and control entities with submitting proposals to the Airborne Troops command element for upgrading the weapon proficiency of personnel for purposes of organizing scientific research to develop a methodology for training Armed Forces servicemen in army small arms tactical shooting. Servicemen of the VDV [Airborne Troops] 45th Separate Spetsnaz Guards Brigade and Western Military District 1st Tank Army's 2nd Guards Motorized Rifle Division gave a practical demonstration of army tactical shooting exercises with pistol and assault rifle in Multifunctional Fire Center galleries.