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PRIŠTINA CORPS COMMAND**MILITARY SECRET****Strictly Confidential no. 880-290****STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL****5 October 1998****Copy no.**/handwritten: 290/**Annex to the report regarding****incidents resulting in death****and use of critical ammunition.****3RD ARMY IKM /Forward Command Post/****(To Commander personally)**

Re: Document Strictly Confidential no. 168-264 3RD A /Army/ IKM of 3 October 1998, submitting requested information.

1. Around 1055 hours on 30 September 1998 Captain 1st Class Goran LOZNICA, Commander of the 21st idč /Reconnaissance-Sabotage Company/, according to his own plan, started a tour of inspection of DG /state border/ security organs in his unit, in the GK C-2 sector, Košare border post. To perform the task he also engaged Warrant Officer 2nd Class Dobrosav DRAŽIĆ, for the purpose of reinforcing one of the security organs, and a Pinzgauer M/V /motor vehicle/ driver, three soldiers from the June 98 recruitment group and two from the VpU /Military Police Administration/, for the purpose of providing practical training in the sector.

Before setting off the Company Commander specifically prepared the engaged troops, explained the task, the manner of its execution and security measures (according to the statement made by Warrant Officer 2nd Class DRAŽIĆ).

During the movement Captain 1st Class LOZNICA showed in practice to the engaged troops critical sections of the road along the border line, manner of observation and combing of terrain. He used a combined method: patrol movement and observation on foot and transportation in the part of the section that is slightly safer.

Around 1145 hours šiptar /derogatory for Albanians/ terrorists carried out an ambush attack, which was set up along the road in the direction that the M/V was moving in: from the front, the left and the right side, in the territory of the Republic of Albania, partly also in our territory. At a critical point the road passes 100-150 metres from the border line.

The attack was carried out by a strong terrorist group, numbering 100-150 terrorists, with infantry weapons, *Zolja* and *Ambrust* hand-held rocket launchers and hand grenades. Some of the terrorists spoke Serbian.

The measures of combat security taken were definitely not full since the group was ambushed.

Military investigation organs are investigating responsibility for the death of five soldiers.

The Company Commander set off to carry out the task with full responsibility to the assigned tasks and the desire to bring the entire unit into full operation as soon as possible.

The aim of the big DTG /sabotage group/ was probably to attack the Košare border post itself, because they attacked the border post for the sixth time in the past month.

An M/V was engaged to carry out the task, against the Order of the PrK-IKM /Priština Corps Forward Command Post/ Command, Strictly Confidential no. 873-833/1 of 18 August 1998, prohibiting the use of M/Vs in the DG security sector.

The Corps Command took the following measures:

a) Before the incident described happened:

- took measures and banned all units from using M/Vs for departing from and returning to the ambush sectors and the use of unit (last issued Strictly Confidential no. 873-833/1 of 18 August 1998);

b) After the incident described happened:

- saving the wounded and providing care for them
- visiting the border post and interviewing the troops
- informing all units about the attack that was carried out
- reinforcing the Košara border post with 40-50 more soldiers,

- additionally reinforcing DG security along the line and deep behind it, by engaging all BGs /combat groups/ in the border area and
- investigation is in progress.

2. Based on combat reports, regular intelligence reports and based on written reports by the all unit commanders of 5 October 1998, the PrK Command does not have information about the alleged massacre against the civilian population in the village of Gornje Obrinje on 26 and 27 September 1998 and also in the period while the Plan for Fighting Terrorism in KiM /Kosovo and Metohija/ from 25 July until 29 September 1998 was being implemented.

Chief of the PrK Command Security Organ orally informed me about the content of the unchecked information that members of the Security Service sent to the GŠ VJ /General Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia/ Security Administration, stating that unidentified members of some MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ units that were carrying out b/d /combat operations/ in the village of Gornje Obrinje executed persons taken into custody. This information was not about the massacre of civilian population, as mentioned in the media.

Based on written statements by unit commanders, while providing support for MUP units in the period from 25 July-29 September 1998, VJ members acted in accordance with the spirit of the order on the application of the International Law of War regulations (a total number of nine orders were issued) and the “Handbook for VJ Members Engaged in the Area Affected by DT /sabotage/ Operations”.

3. In the period from July to September 1998 PrK units used up the following types of critical ammunition:

- 122 mm bullet	2,906 pieces
- 100 mm bullet	4,419 pieces
- 82 mm bullet for BsT /recoilless gun/	135 pieces

None of the types of the mentioned ammunition were used from b/k /combat/ sets, leaving the tactical level in PrK unimpaired.

All the requests for critical ammunition were sent to the 202nd PoB /Logistics Base/, based on permission of 3rd Army Command tactical leaders, and there is required documentation about it.

In its regular combat reports the Corps Command submitted information stating in which situations and for which tasks the critical ammunition was used.

PN/DP

COMMANDER

Lieutenant General

Nebojša PAVKOVIĆ

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