

THE BIG ROLE OF MILITIAMEN AND SELF-DEFENSE
CORPSMEN IN THE WAR AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISTS

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I

The war of destruction against the north is a part of the aggressive war waged by the U.S. imperialists in Vietnam. According to White House and Pentagon calculations, this war of destruction is aimed at reducing our people's determination to fight for reunification of our fatherland and directly preventing the support of the north for the south. It mainly relies on air force, which is combined with naval activities, espionage war, psychological war, etc.

With a large number of modern aircraft, the U.S. imperialists hope to act with complete freedom over the north. But the reality is entirely contrary to their expectations. Wherever they "escalate" the war, our army and people deal heavy punitive blows at them. Their war of destruction against the north, in regard to its basic aims, has been a failure. Once more the people's war has been tested in our country, and has proved its invincible power.

It has been proved by reality that the recent victories of the regular army could not be separated from the big contributions of our militiamen, self-defense corpsmen, and people. In the fight against an enemy that has a lot of modern technical means, the role of the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen not only does not decrease, but is greatly developed.

One of the remarkable achievements of our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen was to contribute actively to downing enemy aircraft, to strengthen our country's antiaircraft fire net. According to incomplete statistics, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen alone have downed thirty U.S. aircraft, mainly supersonic jets, with only infantry guns. Equipped with only ordinary weapons, with very little experience, our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen have been fighting hard and have won in many battles against the U.S. aircraft; this vehemently speaks for their fast progress. However, by only relying on the number of U.S. aircraft downed by our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen to evaluate their usefulness in the antiaircraft work, such

an evaluation is far from appropriate.

The anti-aircraft system organized in the north consists of many layers of fire. The fact that the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen widely take part in shooting at enemy aircraft provides our anti-aircraft fire net with both high and low layers; these two fire layers overcome the weakness of each other, and are closely coordinated with each other in combat. The air observation system and high-altitude fire power of the regular troops have inflicted losses upon the U.S. air force and have compelled the latter to develop a low-altitude striking method in order to maintain its surprise-attack quality and to reduce losses although such a method is not what modern aircraft are for. The low layer of fire, provided by the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, is both difficult to detect and very dangerous for the enemy; it compels enemy aircraft to fly higher, thus giving our anti-aircraft troops a chance to destroy them.

The fire power of our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen also creates a thick fire net over the whole of our country; it greatly reduces the high degree of mobility of enemy aircraft. In reality, the latter cannot move as fast as the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen who are already there to fight them; wherever these aircraft appear, and whenever they are in the range of infantry guns, they are fired at, and therefore lose the accuracy of their fire power. The fire power of the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen creates favorable conditions for our anti-aircraft troops to concentrate their force, to have mobility in fighting the enemy, and to defend the key areas.

The activities of the U.S. air force are not solely military in character; in many cases, the enemy's aircraft flew very low so that the tremendous roar of their engines and their high speed would bend the trees and shake the houses, thus threatening our people. The fire net of our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen defeated that enemy plot.

Through their own feats of arms, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen made a great contribution to lowering the U.S. imperialists' false air power, making our people have more confidence and speed their production and combat work. From the bitter test with the U.S. air force appeared tens of thousands of brave and intelligent men and women of the militia and self-defense corps, who have the ability to persuade the masses to take part in the "all our people shoot at U.S. aircraft" movement--the widest patriotic fighting movement in the history of our people's anti-aggressive fight.

Our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen are also the main force that capture U.S. pilots. Although the commanders of the U.S. aggressive army do everything to rescue the pilots who survive, but most of those pilots who bailed out were captured by our people. In many places, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen also shot down the enemy helicopters that came to the rescue of the downed pilots like in Le Thuy (Quang Binh), Huong Khe (Ha Tinh), etc. The increasing number of pilots who died in their aircraft or were captured alive led the enemy to a serious shortage of pilots; recently the enemy

had to get replacements from among the pilots serving as instructors or research workers.

In addition to taking part in fighting the U.S. aircraft, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, in cooperation with the police and other branches, also help to maintain order and security, to popularize state policies among the people, and to check in time the enemy's plots, attacks, and efforts to arouse banditry and riot in local areas.

In the war of destruction against the north, the U.S. imperialists mainly rely on an air force that has a relatively great destructive power and great mobility. Therefore, the problem of protecting lives and properties for millions of people, particularly in the areas of high population density, is quite a complicated and difficult one. Because we have succeeded in persuading the majority of people to take part in the people's antiaircraft work, of which the militia and self-defense force serves as a backbone, we obtain good results in the organization of our fighting the enemy and protecting ourselves from the enemy. With their well-organized ranks and members who are familiar with military matters, our militia and self-defense corps have set up an air observation network in cities and the countryside, alert the people in time, set good examples for the people to dig shelters for air raids, guide the people in the matter of avoiding and protecting themselves from enemy aircraft, and at the same time serve as the hard core force in the people's antiaircraft combat force.

The roads of communication and transportation are a target for the enemy's constant attacks. The fighting between us and the enemy is very bitter here. At the beginning, a number of local areas thought that we must have regular troops equipped with heavy antiaircraft guns in order to protect our roads of communication, and that if we wanted to overcome the bad consequences created by the enemy (for instance repairing broken bridges, deactivating bombs, etc.), we must have a specialized force having a good command of science and technology. However, because of the wide scope of the war of destruction, we cannot have specialized cadres and agents scattered everywhere, no matter how numerous they are, nor can they alone cope with the needs of the situation. In this situation, there is no other way than to rely on the force of the masses. In reality it has been proved that, ever since proper attention was paid to the people's role, there has been important progress in the communication-transportation work. The aircraft-hunting cells of our militia and self-defense corps that appeared on our roads of communication not only limited the enemy's destructive power, but also downed and damaged many U.S. aircraft; many militia and self-defense corps units that had the duty to protect medium and small bridges successfully fought enemy aircraft in their repeated attacks. The militia engineer units, despite their being newly established, were able to deactivate by themselves most of the time bombs the enemy dropped, and in cooperation with the state specialized units repaired many bridges. The system of alert and antiaircraft shelters along roads of communication already showed its usefulness; the traffic of ferry boats became faster and safer thanks to the active participation of our militiamen

an self-defense corpsmen. The latter are also the main force that now develops the local communication network, uses our rudimentary transportation means in order to serve better both production and combat work and to reduce concentration of vehicles on big roads, and creates favorable conditions for mechanized vehicles to travel faster and more conveniently.

The enemy's activities to destroy production are also as fierce as the activities to destroy our roads of communication and transportation. The enemy has been blockading our waters, bombing our factories, farms, irrigation works, etc.

With well-organized ranks, sound discipline and political understanding, our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen have been developing their active, exemplary role in production, even in the places and periods of difficulties and danger, with production and protection of production having to be done at the same time. As a result, the people feel encouraged, assured, and enthusiastic while speeding production. In some areas more frequently and fiercely attacked by the enemy (Vinh Linh, Quang Binh), production has not decreased, but has actually increased. This is an eloquent proof of the bravery, heroism, and limitless ability of the masses and the militia and self-defense force on the economic front.

On the basis of a continuous consolidation of the organization of the militia and self-defense corps, the task of supplementing the regular army has been properly carried out. What deserves our attention is the fact that the engineer, information, and fire-fighting units of the militia and self-defense corps, despite their being newly organized, have proved themselves realistically useful in local combat tasks, as well as in their cooperation with the regular troops. Our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen have devoted millions of work days to building fortifications for the regular troops, helping the artillery units to overcome difficult terrain, bringing supplies, carrying wounded men, etc., thus helping to raise the mobility, combat readiness, and fighting power of our regular troops and local troops.

The great contributions mentioned above prove that our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, under the leadership of the party, in both wartime and peacetime, on the front and in the rear, always are an important element of the entire revolutionary force in general, and of the people's armed force in particular. In the present fight against the U.S. for national salvation, the militia and self-defense corps still remain a strategic force, and along with other revolutionary armed forces and the people resolutely fulfill the glorious historic task of limiting, repelling, and winning in the war of destruction, thus moving toward defeating any other aggressive plot and maneuver the U.S. imperialists may have.

II

Having suffered continual defeats in both the north and the south, the

U.S. imperialists will have recourse to more brazen and daring maneuvers. In addition to intensifying the aggressive war in the south, they will further extend the war of destruction to the north at a fiercer pace. In addition to using their air force, they will also use warships to shell, infantry to attack, and special forces on a large scale; at the same time cooperate with the reactionary inlanders to carry on espionage war and psychological war activities for the purpose of harassing and destroying our rear.

The militiamen and self-defense corpsmen in the north are hurriedly preparing themselves to cope with any unexpected situation that may develop. Trying to win in the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction is both defending the north and closely coordinating with the liberation struggle of our compatriots in the south, and at the same time preparing the ground for defeating the enemy if the latter dares to widen the aggressive war to the whole of our country.

The development of the present situation requires that our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen fulfill these new needs and tasks:

First, to contribute actively to destroying more enemy aircraft and the enemy's special forces and attacking forces.

This is the most important military task to be fulfilled by militiamen and self-defense corpsmen. Fulfilling this task well will create favorable conditions for the fulfilment of other tasks and deal a heavy blow at the enemy's aggressive will.

For over a year of fighting the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction, our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen shot down a number of aircraft and captured many enemy pilots. Today, after having acquired rich combat experiences and raised their ideological, technical, and tactical capacities, many units are more capable of winning even bigger victories. Military organs of all levels must pay attention to consolidating the cells in charge of shooting at enemy aircraft, securing combat readiness, and raising their own commanding capacity so as to make it full of wisdom, mobility, and flexibility.

In regard to the task of fighting against special forces and attacking forces, particularly against the former, our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen have gained a lot of experiences. In the time to come, it is possible that the enemy will use larger forces of that kind. If the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen are satisfied with their old capacities, they will find their task quite difficult to fulfill. In addition to continuously raising their technical and tactical capacities, they need to pay attention to further training in greater mobility, better cohesion in combat, and organizing of better information-collecting work leading to deeper understanding of the enemy's situation.

Second, to fulfill properly the task of serving as the hard core of

the people's base-level antiaircraft work.

Fighting resolutely and avoiding actively (enemy aircraft) are the two aspects of the people's antiaircraft work; however, for the people, the latter is the principal aspect.

Our experiences have indicated that if the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen were concerned only with fighting enemy aircraft while neglecting passive defense work for the people and for themselves, this would adversely affect our fighting the enemy ingeneral and would mean a failure on their part to protect the people's lives and properties. There must be appropriate attention paid to all the aspects of the passive defense work; in public places and where the population density is high, we must have enough shelters made exactly according to specifications, and at the same time improve the people's antiaircraft attacking force in order to reduce to the lowest limit the losses inflicted upon us by the enemy.

Third, to try to maintain safe, uninterrupted, and continuous communication-transportation.

Communication-transportation is the blood stream of the people's economy and greatly affects our national defense task. The north has thousands of kilometers of strategically important roads and railroads and also a pretty large network of sea transportation routes. The U.S. imperialists concentrate a great deal of their force upon destroying our communication-transportation system so as to disturb our people's economy and to prevent the circulation and movement of our army and people. In the time to come, the enemy will continue to bomb and to destroy our roads, thus causing us more difficulties.

The determination of our party and Government at the present time is to secure safe, uninterrupted, and continuous communication. It is also the determination of all our army and people to defeat an important part of the enemy's war-of-destruction plot, to safeguard the people's living, and to satisfy the ever growing needs for national defense.

Series of problems thus appear: to organize the fight against enemy aircraft, the protection from enemy bombings on our roads of communication, and the transporting and loading-unloading of merchandises; to camouflage bridges; to repair roads; to build secondary roads, etc. Only by relying on the big force of our militia and self-defense and of our people can we fulfill this task properly.

Fourth, to continue developing further the hard-core, attacking role in production.

Production and combat are the two principal tasks of all our party and people at the present time. Being the armed force in charge of both production and combat at the base level, the militia and self-defense corps must see more clearly their responsibility for this matter.

The more the enemy intensifies his destructive activities, the more the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, along with the rest of the people, try to remedy the losses caused by the enemy and to destroy the latter while protecting their own force in regard to men, properties, machinery, etc. As soon as the enemy is gone, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen turn to industrial and agricultural production, do their best to improve techniques, and raise labor productivity. Only by doing so can they actively contribute to strengthening the people's economic potentiality and driving our combat to victory.

Fifth, to take an active part in the struggle against the U.S. imperialists' espionage war and psychological war.

Espionage war and psychological war are closely combined with the enemy's war of destruction. They are aimed at undermining and harassing our ranks and paralyzing our people's will to fight. The enemy's maneuver is to deceive, to slander, to take advantage of our difficulties and weaknesses to carry on his destructive activities.

Our experiences indicate that the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen are a propaganda force that actively makes the people have a correct concept of the enemy's real nature and plot, and confidence in the party and Government. If we know how to use the vast limitless force of the militia and self-defense corps in the struggle against the U.S. imperialists' espionage and psychological wars, we will certainly build a politically stabilized and sound rear to help our army and people to devote all their efforts to fighting the enemy from without.

Sixth, to fulfill properly the task of a reserve force and to secure the combat-serving task in support for the main-force troops.

Our people's army today is a regular, relatively modern one. The more the main-force troops grow in strength and destroy the enemy, the more they help the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen to progress in all fields. At the same time, the heavier their combat task becomes, the greater the need of the rear and of other armed forces for such troops. This situation requires that the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen not only focus on their responsibility for daily combat and production, but also be ready to assign, if necessary, some of their men the task of serving combat or joining the main-force ranks without affecting the local productive and combat power.

III

The militia and self-defense corps must be consolidated in every way if they have to fulfill the heavy tasks mentioned above.

Strengthening the work of political education and ideological leadership is the most basic condition for raising the fighting power of our militia-

men and self-defense corpsmen.

The recent achievements of our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen are the unavoidable results of all those efforts to do political-education and ideological-leadership work and to raise the determination among their ranks to fight and to defeat the U.S. aggressors.

Under the conditions of our fierce, bitter fight against an enemy that has plenty of modern means, our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen have been responsible for outstanding feats of arms; the main reason behind such achievements is their deep hatred for the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their determination to defeat the U.S. imperialists so as to protect the fruit of the socialist revolution in the north, to liberate the south, and to move toward reunification of the country. The deep hatred for the enemy and the firm determination to destroy the enemy can be based only on the efforts to raise the understanding of class of the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, to make them understand the evil nature of imperialism, the superiority of the socialist system, and the glorious responsibility of the people's armed forces for the great revolutionary work of the people.

Militiamen and self-defense corpsmen belong to different age groups; some of them used to be oppressed and exploited by the imperialists and feudalists; some others grew up under the new regime. The second group accounts for a larger and larger proportion in the militia and self-defense corps ranks. As a result, there is a need for paying proper attention to teaching them the concept of class and the way to distinguish friends and foes. We can do this in many ways and by different lively, yet profound, methods like encouraging people to recount their sufferings, comparing two ways of life, revealing the crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists against the people, etc.

A firm proletarian stand and a strong national spirit must be demonstrated in a thorough understanding and resolute implementation of all revolutionary standpoints and lines. Therefore, we need to teach the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen about the current events and policies; and to stress the task of fighting the U.S. for national salvation, defending the north, liberating the south, reunifying the country, and fulfilling international duties as the main content of such teaching. At the same time we need to teach them the revolutionary traditions and national virtues, such as the ability to bear hardships and to overcome difficulties; the will to fight bravely, continually, persistently; the spirit of initiative-taking and creativity; and to overcome any sign of subjective action and impatience, any fear of sacrifices and hardships, and all manifestations of other unhealthy tendencies among the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen.

Under the conditions of combat and production being carried on at the same time, we must cleverly use all propaganda organizations and measures and the teaching tools to mobilize the people in time at the places of production and on the battleground, thus making education lively and realistic.

To build and to consolidate the militia and self-defense corps along a steady and vast line.

The militia and self-defense corps can exist and develop their effectiveness only when the party echelons fully understand the line based on class to be adopted for their building and consolidation.

Recently many local areas launched different phases of the movement to consolidate the militia and self-defense corps. Many party committees of village, factory, and city quarter levels enrolled good party members, enthusiastic youth labor union members, and active soldiers satisfying all requirements in the ranks of our militia and self-defense corps. At the same time, under the real conditions of production and combat, there were measures taken to make them politically sound. However, in some places, many party members, union members, and active soldiers still remain outside the militia and self-defense corps, or if they have joined the latter, it was only a token act on their part, with no real effectiveness being felt. This situation must be put to an end soon.

Fully understanding the line based on class also requires that it be applied appropriately to the political situation of each area, with complete awareness of the adverse effects caused by lack of understanding and preconceived ideas. On the one hand, we must attach importance to political quality, and make sure that the militia and self-defense corps are really a revolutionary armed force of our country's working people; on the other hand, we need to attract all those who satisfy the requirements into this force so as to widen the movement to arm all our people for the fight against the U.S. for national salvation.

We must coordinate this movement with the "three readinesses" and "three resourcefulnesses" movements and, through other political campaigns, make the majority of the people willingly join the militia and self-defense corps. During the war of resistance against the French in the past, up to 15 percent of the population of Hung Yen Province, which was one of the many provinces that suffered the most from the enemy's terrorizing and mopping-up acts, joined the ranks of the militiamen and guerrillas. Today, as we are under more favorable conditions than before, we can organize a much larger body of militiamen and guerrillas.

In the building of the militia and self-defense corps, proper importance must be attached to the role of women. Because of our people's revolutionary struggle characteristics and traditions, the woman members of the militia and self-defense corps must constitute an organization we cannot afford to lack. In addition to developing the militia and self-defense corps activities among women, we must attach utmost importance to further improving and granting promotion to those women who show more potential capacities so that they could be given leadership work and made the commanding officers of the militia and self-defense corps.

Base level cadres have a decisive effect upon the movement. As we have a number of newly-appointed cadres, we must pay more attention to perfecting the body of base level cadres, particularly in vital places. More particularly, we must closely administer and constantly improve the guerrilla cadres and combat corpsmen, who constitute the hard core of our militia and self-defense corps.

Through our combat experiences, we find that the specialized units of our militia and self-defense corps like the engineer, fire-fighting, reconnaissance, information, first-aid units are very necessary and effective. Those units need to be consolidated so as to help serve combat in local areas and to be a source of support for the regular troops.

The militiamen and self-defense corpsmen are better equipped than before, but because of inappropriate distribution and use of equipment in some areas, their effect remains limited. We need to consider an adjustment of the use of equipment in accordance with areas of major importance, and the full use of the capacity of local industry in the manufacture of weapons for our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen to use; this way we shall create favorable conditions for them to fulfill even better their combat task.

At present, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen must carry out quite heavy production, combat, and combat-serving tasks. Many of them are to face family problems and difficulties in their living. In spite of all that, they are fulfilling their tasks enthusiastically. Our party, Government, and people highly value such qualities. In order to create favorable conditions for them to work better in both production and combat, the responsible organs must study the necessary systems and policies that would help them to reduce the difficulties they face in their everyday life. In addition to the already-adopted policies and systems, there recently appeared new problems created by the wartime, such as the policies and systems to be applicable to the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen directly in charge of shooting at enemy aircraft, the protection of communication and transportation, etc. Generally speaking, the most correct line is still that of the people, which relies on the abilities of the local cooperative and people and at the same time the definite regulations prescribed by the state for certain work, for the purpose of properly consolidating and developing the militia and self-defense corps.

To raise technical and tactical capacities, as well as the ability to organize commanding work, in order to satisfy the need of the combat and security-maintaining task.

The purpose of training is to combat. In order to make the training of the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen effective, it must come from the need of the combat and security-maintaining task. In addition to fighting the U.S. piratical aircraft, there are different combat and security-maintaining needs; for instance, some areas must get prepared to fight the special forces, some other areas must fight the enemy along the coast, etc.

Therefore, the training program must suit each local area, and cannot be too ambitious or mechanical. Under any circumstances, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen must be trained in such a way as to be capable of coping effectively with the enemy's war of destruction and remaining prepared to face more complicated happenings.

In a general way, the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen fight under the conditions of those who are few and fight an outnumbering enemy, who are weak and fight the strong, who use courage and wit to defeat the enemy's modern techniques and weapons. Therefore, while giving technical and tactical training, we must pay utmost attention to promoting courage, initiative, flexibility, and creativity in combat. Because of the need for fighting with the regular troops, in addition to their regular combat-serving activities, specialized units like antiaircraft artillery, regular artillery, engineer, etc. are very necessary.

To learn from experiences and to popularize in time all combat experiences is a very realistic and flexible training method. The extremely rich experiences gained in the struggle of the army and people of the south, the experiences obtained during the war of resistance, as well as the current experiences in our fight against the war of destruction in the north, must be widely popularized and creatively applied so as to heighten further the fighting power of our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen.

To consolidate the existing combat villages and to build more and more combat villages.

From the war against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, our people have created the form of combat villages. They are the fortress of the people's war. Under the leadership of the party, all the physical and moral forces of the people are gathered and fully developed to fight the aggressors, to defend our villages, and to turn to attacking the enemy for destroying him.

The U.S. imperialists' war of destruction is going on on a wider and wider scale and with the help of the most cruel and savage maneuvers. Therefore, the purpose of building combat villages (or combat quarters in cities, combat zones in the highland) is to defeat the enemy in his war of destruction and to prepare ourselves to cope with his plot to widen the war of aggression.

The strength of our combat villages, as it has been proved by reality, originates from all our people's will and determination to fight under the sound party leadership to destroy the enemy. The building of combat villages cover various aspects--political, military, economic. The prerequisite condition for this building work is to have good political bases, based on the party chi bo. Moreover, there must be a big force of militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, who fight bravely, do productive work enthusiastically; production must be developed on the basis of our consolidated cooperatives; combat fortifications must be good while shelters and trenches must be suf-

ficient and solid.

As building combat villages is a big job, it can be carried out properly only under the unified leadership of party echelons, with the wide participation of all branches and social groups. We must show the masses the immediate benefits, as well as the long-lasting effect, of building combat villages so that they would resolutely carry out such a job, secure good quality, and satisfy the combat needs of each local area.

To strengthen the complete, direct, and absolute leadership of the local party committees over the militia and self-defense corps.

The absolute, direct, and complete leadership of local party committees is the basic condition for our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen to win victory in all fields of building, combat, and production.

Implementing the party Central Committee resolution dealing with a shift of direction of organizational work, many local party committees have correctly resolved the relations between production and combat, and between economic building and national defense; paid proper attention to strengthening leadership; and assumed direct leadership over the building of the militia and self-defense corps force.

Our experiences have clearly shown that if the party echelons were willing to develop the role of our militiamen and self-defense corpsmen in production and combat, they should attach proper importance to leadership over the various fields of activities of the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen, such as building, training, production, and combat; and continually urge and supervise the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen to execute all the resolutions of the local party committees.

On the basis of a full understanding of the party military line, we must combine the building of "four good" chi bo with the consolidation and development of the militia and self-defense corps; teach all party members to show their pioneering and example-setting role among the militia and self-defense corps ranks, in accordance with the slogan, "party members go first, other people follow"; and make all government organizations, cooperatives, and local people's groups extend their encouragement and assistance to the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen. Those are the key problems in connection with strengthening the militia and self-defense corps ranks.

Local military organs, which serve as the staff of party committeemen in military matters, must be further perfected. Those cadres working in these organs must be improved and must raise their basic understanding of leadership and guidance in the war of destruction and guerrilla warfare, of the organization of the joint command among the three arms, and of the behavior and work of the revolutionary military cadres.

The militia and self-defense corps constitute one of the three kinds

of revolutionary people's armed forces. Whether the militia and self-defense corps are strong or weak directly affects other people's armed forces. Therefore, the main-force and local units, wherever they may be stationed, must have the responsibility for helping the militiamen and self-defense corpsmen in both building and combat work.

Our people's fight against the U.S. for national salvation is approaching a bitter decisive period. Party committees of all levels must strengthen the leadership over the militia and self-defense force and develop the latter's big role in the current revolutionary struggle so as to make an active contribution to defeating the U.S. piratical aggressors, defending the north, liberating the south, and moving toward reunification of our fatherland.

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