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Exploits of VJ's 37th Motorized Brigade

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[Unattributed Article: "Brave Men of Drenica, Heroes of Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 37th Motorized Brigade from Raska was one of elite units of our army even before the aggression. Its participation in fights in Kosmet [Kosovo and Metohija] brought it the Medal of National Hero. The story of its wartime journey, told in a soldier's style, mentions many battle places, combat conditions, and events and does not carry in it a smell of gunpowder, but a message not to be forgotten.

On 16 June, at 3 AM [0100 GMT], the last unit of the heroic 37th Motorized Brigade returned to the barracks in Raska from the territory of Kosovo and Metohija. Just as they remember the exact hour of their return, the past three months which reflect the wartime journey of the brigade, are indelibly imprinted in the memory of the fighters. Every day was like a long and difficult year, and every night like an uncertain and unforeseeable decade.

It is not easy to get through the closed door of these fresh and painful memories. A wall built from a desire to forget poses itself as a defense and does not allow the words to come through. Why, who wants words, they wonder. Homeland? They paid their debt to the homeland in blood, by surviving honorably and heroically at the place where all evils of this world were threatening. History? The history, which again records the wounds to Serbian people, inflicting them because of repeated mistakes and unlearned lessons of survival in the whirlwind of the Balkan. The youth of today that carried the burden of war on its own back, and the youth of the future that will heal the pains of existence? It is for them that these words of remembrance must be said. They will know how to appreciate them, keep them for years and save them from being forgotten. Their youth grew old in a short time; worries crept into their carefree life. And their tears, tears of heroes who survived the hell of Drenica especially, even though they cannot bring to life their killed buddies, can hurt, and hurt for years.

That is why the story which follows, about the wartime journey of the brigade, told in a soldier's style mentions many battle places, combat conditions and events, and does not carry in it a smell of gunpowder but a message not to be forgotten.

In Combat Reconnaissance: 50 Percent Officers

If we had the power to listen and read thoughts, the fast and tempered Ibar could hum to us about the past events at the territory of Kosovo and Metohija in which 37th Motorized Brigade was an active participant. This river probably knows already all secrets of soldiers and officers from this garrison. All of those who came for leave whispered stories about bravery, sacrifice, about Kosmet's cruel reality to their girlfriends in the twilight on its banks. But our powers are small, completely human, and we can only hear words and see faces of people we talked to -- Majors Danilo Simonovic, and Goran Petrovic, and Capt. First Class Slobodan Radenkovic. Danilo, vivacious, of short height, with lively blue eyes, and probably the same nature, brown hair; Slobodan, quiet, with a sad look and melancholic voice, and the tall and temperamental Goran, who, they say right away, was the master for a good mood in the unit.

These three officers and fellow fighters talked about the wartime journey of their brigade. They divided it into two phases of the unit's deployment on the territory of Kosmet: the period from 7 March to 2 April, and the period from 2 April to 16 June. Major Simonovic says that when it was known that the brigade was going to be deployed to provide security for one part of Kosmet territory, a combat group from part of active and reserve components was formed as a

framework of 37th Brigade. It was comprised of 50 percent of active officers, while active soldiers were the ones from March and June Class. They did not want to take the December Class, because in their opinion, they were still young. The ratio of officers and soldiers was 1 to 5 because it was necessary to save the lives of these young men.

I went to Kosovo on 7 March with this first part of the unit, says Maj. Simonovic, and the rest of the forces arrived in the following days. The fact that the commander of the brigade now exceptionally promoted to the rank of colonel [pukovnik], Ljubisa Dikovic, soon joined us speaks to the importance of this small unit of ours. Apart from that, the commander of 1st Battalion of the Brigade, Capt. First Class Dragan Mitrovic, and the commander of 2nd Battalion, Capt. First Class Dejan Randjelovic, were the commander and the deputy commander of the combat group.

This combat unit was deployed in the areas Kosovska Mitrovica -- Glogovac -- Pec -- Istok. It had enviable successes from Mitrovica, Cicavica, and Drenivca. They especially remember the territory of Drenica -- Glogovac, Srbica, infamous Donji and Gornji Prekazi, Lausa, Likovac and Vocnjak.

There were many actions, they are all remembered, but four were of special importance. The first was ingress in the depth of the occupied territory, and the other three are the so-called sweeps of the territory and the fight against Albanian terrorists. They had the first task at the mere beginning, in March, when one reconnaissance unit and one unit of military police were put inside the region of Prica toward Cacavica. Senior Sgt. [stariji vodnik] Milovan Vidic led the reconnaissance unit, and Senior Sgt. Ivan Toskic led the military police unit. Under cover of the night, they were placed deep into the occupied territory, in the twin [adjacent] houses to Albanian houses, which made possible placement in and taking of the objectives Zmic and Maruga in the territory of Kosovska Mitrovica and Srbica. After that they came down to Drenica.

"That was a heroic action," adds Danilo visibly excited by the memory, "and a Christening by fire."

The second task was the sweep of the territory in the towns of Gornja and Donja Prekaza over the mountain of Cicevica, toward the village of Staro Poljance. The third task was on the territory of Krasimirovac, Cirez, Likosan -- these are villages on the way to Dobrosevac and Glogovac -- and the fourth one was between Metohijska Klina and Pec.

In one action in the region of the village of Banja toward Josanica, Sgt. [vodnik] Toskic, commander of the police unit, was wounded. It was considered a success to survive in territory of Drenica for a month without losses. During that time, the brigade had only one wounded commissioned officer and two soldiers.

It is hard to describe each of those events. They had to be lived through. In peacetime we did not have actions involving breaking into villages and sweeping [operations], because the military police did that, and now we did that while in movement. However, the morale was unbelievable, we breathed with one soul. You should have seen this youth, how brave they are. If I had said "to the moon," we would have surely gotten to the moon. I take this opportunity to emphasize the words of our supervising officers, Generals Pavkovic and Lazarevic, that a monument should be erected to our active soldiers. They probably took us officers as role models. In this combat group of the Brigade, from the commander of the Brigade down to soldiers, everyone was in the same position in the forward area. There was no rear. The commander of the Brigade came with us four or five times on reconnaissance.

The terrain on which the fights took place was wooded and impassable, and the enemy waited behind every bush. They had special difficulties with the red soil in which a tank would wallow as soon as it got off the road. On one occasion, a tank was stuck for four days, and on another a vehicle was stuck in the territory of the village of Taradza. Senior Sgt. Pero Hristo spent three days with his three soldiers before they were able to get out. This brave and responsible action of his was conducted in the area where they were easy targets.

The weather was not on their side either. It was either snowing or raining, and it was difficult to get provisions delivered, so they used horses to deliver food to positions. The aggression of NATO forces against the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] found the combat group in the larger area of Gornja Klina. The command was in Srbica. On 2 April this forward unit of 37th Brigade received support from the reservists so the unit could operate fully staffed.

In the Infamous Drenica Region

Capt. First Class Slobodan Radenkovic continues with the second part of the story of the unit's wartime journey. Upon the proclamation of the state of war, the Brigade received an order to conduct mobilization. It was conducted under most unfavorable conditions, [more than] it was anticipated in planning documents. Despite problems, it was conducted with the percentage of 105 percent [as published]. After a short training period of a few days, between 2 and 3 April, the Brigade was brought to Kosovo and Metohija to an area of 3440 square kilometers, in a marching formation and deployed in conducting combat actions on the territory of Drenica.

This is where our interviewee paused, took a deep breath, and continued as if fighting for air with every word.

This is the worst evil that has existed in this area since the end of the last century. This is where the first attacks on our soldiers during the withdrawal through Albania in the First World War took place. This is where Balists [members of Albanian political organization Bali Kombetar] were destroyed only after the Second World War. In Drenica and Srbica, Albanian demonstrations started also in 1981. The police only recently entered the surrounding villages that were strongholds of Albanian terrorists. Drenica was a synonym for a snake hole of separatists. After the Second World War, Srbica was a Serbian city with 90 percent Serbs, while the census from 1991 recorded only 94 Serbs out of 70,000 inhabitants. There were no Serbs in Glogovac.

Finding themselves in such surroundings, the members of the unit from Raska did not spend a single day from the Brigade's deployment until its withdrawal from Kosovo without combat action. The Brigade performed several tasks simultaneously: fighting separatist forces, organizing defense, combat control of the territory, and protection from artillery fire.

The actions to break Albanian separatist forces were numerous. Our interviewee mentions several: the first one on the line of the village of Krusevac -- Devicka Suma -- Novo Poljance -- Trstenik -- Rezala -- Gornje Obrinje; the second one on the line Kosmac -- Mukusnica -- Taradza -- Galica -- and the infamous Lausa. For about thirty days, part of the forces were deployed on the blockade of north and northwestern slopes of Cicavica, breaking and destroying of terrorists in the region of Kamenica, Vrbovacko Brdo, Dosevacko Brdo, the region of Vasiljevo, Gornje Prekaze, Del, Kodra Priboj, Ovcarevo, Kosmac, Gornje and Donje Obrinje, Dobrostan, Likovac, and participated with part of the Brigade's forces on the mountain of Drenica.

Exceptionally difficult tasks were placed before the Brigade, continues Slobodan, so each action was carefully planned. Besides the commander, the deputy commander, Lt. Col. [potpukovnik] Borivoje Orovic, had a big and important role. The fact that no one left the unit and that negative influences which were the result of aggressor's psychological and propaganda warfare were not even felt in the Brigade speak about the good work and the responsibility of the commanding officers. "It would happen when we talked to the command in Pristina, that Gen. Lazarevic would answer instead of the operator on duty. He wanted to hear live information, and we would be glad to hear his paternal voice."

Our interviewees say that throughout the combat actions they had certain problems that made action more difficult. The following can be placed under the same hat: a big zone of responsibility, the nonfunctioning of civilian authorities, institutions and organizations, (with the help of the Brigade, civilian government in Srbica and Glogovac was established) the large-scale presence of civilian and a non-military population in the Brigade's zone of responsibility, and also there were two big towns -- Srbica and Glogovac -- that had to be kept under control because they were the terrorists' support in

this zone. Albanians placed a huge number of anti-tank mines. A connection between Albanian terrorists and NATO was also proven, and it consisted of classic guiding of airplanes by means of modern communication devices -- satellite telephone and other methods.

Even though more than 600 missiles were dropped by the air force on the Brigade's zone of responsibility, the effects were unnoticeable: one tank was destroyed, one combat vehicle, four classic air defense weapons, and two motor vehicles. In order to show great losses, the aggressors hit the same targets more times. They attacked with various missiles -- from cluster bombs to A-10 aircraft that killed the commander of reconnaissance company [ceta], Capt. First Class Ivica Stankovic. He was posthumously decorated by the president of the country.

Danilo tells us how he will remember 4 May when they dropped cluster bombs on their positions. He was also wounded then. Everyone thought that there was nothing left of the command of the Battalion. The commander of tank company, Capt. Dragan Blanusa, was the first one to arrive heroically to give help. He did that, disregarding the flying planes and the possibility of a new attack. In that attack, two volunteers and one soldier on active duty died, four were seriously wounded, and two had light wounds.

The attacks by enemy planes and frequent and deceitful attacks by separatists did not prevent the members of the brigade from carrying out their task. During the combat action, they eliminated between 1,000 and 1,200 members of Albanian separatist forces, wounded several hundred of them, and arrested over 300. About 1,000 men, capable of performing military service, were handed over to the MUP [Interior Ministry]. Investigation proved that more than 600 of them actively participated in the so-called OVK [Kosovo Liberation Army -- UCK in Albanian]. Large quantities of weapons, ammunition, equipment, mortars, anti-tank mines, medical and other material and documents about formations and organization of the OVK in the area of Drenica, which was the headquarters of their operational zone, were confiscated and destroyed.

Due to the courageous actions of the unit from Raska, which was also known as an elite unit in the Army before the war (in 1997 it was named the best in its category), the Brigade became a national hero.

In Raska,, in the "Ibarski Rudari" Barracks, at a place dear to them, where the enemy also left a shameful trace of destruction and devastation, they will try to forget the nightmares, lives full of risk, and to suppress all bad memories by removing the traces of war from their lives.

[Box, p 12]

Decorated and Rewarded

The following were decorated with the Medal for Bravery: extraordinarily promoted Lt. Col. Zoran Bojkovic, extraordinarily promoted Capt. First Class Branislav Mihajlovic, Capt. First Class Ivica Stankovic (posthumously), Second Lt. [potporucnik] Nenad Popovic, Sgt. First Class Mirko Zivkovic, Sgt. Milovan Vidic, Junior Sgt. [mladji vodnik] Ivan Niciforovic, and soldiers Veroljub Mijatovic, Milinko Pondic, and Milan Bogdanovic.

The following were posthumously decorated with the Medal for Contribution to the Defense and Security: Lt. Col. [potpukovnik] Brane Stefanovic, Captains First Class Boro Adzemovic, Dragan Mitrovic, and Radovan Stoiljkovic, Capt. Dragan Jasnic, Lt. [porucnik] Zoran Gavrilovic, Second Lieutenants [potporucnik] Djordje Dunic and Milan Jovanovic, and Warrant Officer [zastavnik prve klase] Vojislav Mitic.

Besides these, 19 officers, four noncommissioned officers, and 143 soldiers were decorated with the Medal for the Contribution to Defense and Security. Seventeen officers, 53 noncommissioned officers, and 62 soldiers were extraordinarily promoted.

[Box, p 12]

After the Road Blockade in the Raska Area: Payment of Wartime Per Diems Has Begun

Various news has reached Belgrade about the blockade of roads in the Raska area because of overdue payments of wartime per diems. The newspapers emphasized this

or that side of that phenomenon, depending on what suited someone, but the real story about what was happening can only be heard if one goes to the scene.

We found out the following from Lt. Col. [potpukovnik] Radomir Milovic, the assistant commander of the Uzice Corps for Information and Morale:

"During the afternoon of 2 July, some demobilized military conscripts gathered in Raska in civilian clothes, without weapons. There were about 100 of them in the area of the bus station and the Kraljevo-Raska-Mitrovica road. The reason for the gathering was the unpaid per diems for their involvement in the area of Kosovo and Metohija.

"On the same day, but in the morning, they blocked that road with one tractor-trailer and two trailers. One dump truck full of sand and several cars blocked traffic on the bridge that connects Kraljevo, Raska, and Novi Pazar along with three or four vehicles in the area of the city. Long columns of motor vehicles coming from Mitrovica, Novi Pazar, and Kraljevo were created because of that.

"They were not threatening military facilities, and they did not hinder passage and the regular supply of our forward facilities, nor were they aggressive. No one from our command addressed them, but we monitored what was happening. Conscripts who had been in the brigade, and who were not exemplary in the quality of their performance of their duties, were identified. That situation also lasted until Saturday, and on Sunday they were addressed by the director of Telekom, and he promised that the per diems would be paid to them by Thursday, 8 July. He called upon the demonstrators to disperse, which they did.

"On Saturday, the arrival of demobilized reservists from Kraljevo was also announced. The fact is that our unit is also partly manned by military conscripts from that city. Both groups were in Kosovo and Metohija, and fought there and remained there until the withdrawal. No one from the 37th Brigade returned earlier, or left his unit. Saturday was critical, because that is a market day in Raska, but everything ended OK," Lt. Col. Milovic said.

What was promised to the demobilized military conscripts was done. The money arrived as agreed, and on Wednesday, 7 July, payment began within the perimeter of the barracks in Raska. Soldiers and active-duty officers who, in contrast to their former colleagues, had only received pay for April observed that action from the side.

[Box, p 13]

Albanian Roulette

Believe it or not, it happened that one soldier from the military police unit during the sweep operation was approached from behind by an Albanian terrorist who shot twice at his head. But his pistol did not fire. After the second shot, the soldier managed to get away and fired a round into his opponent. Then, he took his [enemy's] pistol, to see how he managed to avoid death, and fired the third shot. There was no mistake this time. This one would have killed him for sure.

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Experiences of VJ's 37th Motorized Brigade

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[Unattributed article: "Example to Generations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Hero 37th Motorized Brigade. It is sufficient to say Prekaze, Glogovac, Srbica, Likovac, Lausa, Gornje Obrinje and Donje Obrinje, and the Cicavica, Kosmac, and Drenica mountains, renowned for atrocities, to realize that the 37th Motorized Brigade had one of the most difficult and most responsible tasks in the battles in Kosovo. They finished it more than successfully, as only national heroes can.

Peaceful negotiations are the preoccupation of high politicians, but the way of real professional soldiers is to evaluate the situation in the field and in the immediate environment. Not leaving anything to chance and not enthused by staged peace initiatives of the Rambouillet type, the heroes of the 37th Motorized Brigade, led by the already legendary Colonel Ljubisa Dikovic, evaluated the situation accurately and, far before the outbreak of aggression against our fatherland, made the decisions that would quickly be shown as fateful.

In addition to commander Dikovic, the team "mosaic" that developed and created the ideas about how to oppose the enemy also consisted of Lieutenant Colonels Borivoje Orovic, Rastislav Simijonovic, and Zoran Bojkovic. Of course, the Uzice Corps Command, headed by its commander, Major General Grujica Davidovic, offered unselfish assistance to the Raska Brigade's striking fist. Carrying out combat tasks in a situation that changed from day to day with the personnel available before the reserve organization was involved, and with inadequate material capacities, was not the least bit easy. However, as commander Dikovic says, the formula for success or failure was created right at that planning phase.

Test of Patriotism

Everything started far earlier in the brigade of heroes from Raska. They intensively prepared their forces and equipment to defend the fatherland. Nobody got carried away; they simply knew that the situation must be followed and anticipated on a daily basis. Therefore, designated portions of the unit were long in combat readiness. Their months of presence on the broad expanses of Pester foretold that the unit was completely ready for the Kosovo test. As the commander likes to say, the "first semester" of patriotism for the fatherland started back at the beginning of March. At that time, Albanian terrorist forces controlled the majority of the territory and communications, threatened the integrity of the country and all the agencies of government

in Kosovo, and carried out terror against all non-Albanian inhabitants. In that situation, one of the brigade's exemplary tasks was to justify its transfer to the territories of Kosmet [Kosovo and Metohija], specifically to the Kosovska Mitrovica region. That was not at all easy, considering the limitations on movement due to the agreement with the OSCE [Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe] then in effect. It was valid to come to Kosovo to help the Serbian people. There was no other way out. That was the beginning of the heroic actions of the 37th Brigade from Raska.

Only they know the ways (which will surely enter the history of tactical maneuvers and will serve as a precedent for writing new rules and instructions for waging war) in which, in only three days, the brigade's complete active organization, separated into combat groups, joined and was placed under the command of the Pristina Corps and its commander, Lieutenant Colonel General Vladimir Lazarevic. Upon coming to Kosovo, the organization did not stop its training. On the contrary, their training intensified as never before, and their appearance at that time was a sign to the Albanian terrorists and their foreign tutors for still fiercer kidnapping, looting, and robbery. Therefore it often happened that, an hour after conducting its regular training, the unit entered into warfare conditions and combat actions. From day to day, the situation became more complicated and intense. According to our interlocutors, it was necessary to carry out the deblocking of roadways and important communications and to establish control over the territory. They started by breaking up the strong Albanian terrorist bases on the Cicavica and Zmice mountains and in the villages of Galica, Prelevac, Poljance, Prekaze, Turicevac, Brocna, and Vocnjak. Skilled officers led all the actions, which decisively influenced their success in numerous battles so that not a single soldier from the unit of heroes left the battlefield, let alone Kosovo.

Overture for Heroic Acts

While they were creating the conditions in Kosovo for bringing the complete unit into combat actions, their colleagues in Raska were preparing intensively for mobilization since, in the middle of March, NATO was already openly threatening. Everything was done under the most complex conditions. There were few men, the core of the brigade was in Kosovo, a state of war was declared in the country, and NATO started its crazed bombing. But the response from reservists exceeded 100 percent. Upon the declaration of a state of war, more than 60 percent of the reservists reported to their military unit without waiting to be called up. In a period of only a few hours, the future heroes from Raska, Kraljevo, and Vrnjacka Banja--the pride of commander Dikovic--assembled under full military equipment. There, at the very beginning, was the overture for their later heroic acts. Specifically, under forced march under the cover of night, with all measures of air defense, the complete reserve organization reached Kosovo the following morning and joined its army brigade. Thousands of soldiers arrived undiscernibly in the wider region of Kosovska Mitrovica. It was one of the first enigmas for the enemy. Filled in now according to military formation, in cooperation with the other units, the brigade accepted three focal tasks: protecting men and materiel from actions from the air, destroying remaining Albanian terrorist forces, and organizing defense from the aggression of NATO forces from the ground. The tasks were complex but, as commander Dikovic says, they were to the measure of a national hero. Thus said, one thinks above all of Drenica, the source of all Albanian evil and secessionism. It is enough to say Prekaze, Glogovac, Srbica, Likovac, Lausa, Gornje Obrinje, and Donje Obrinje, and the mountains renowned for atrocities--Cicavica, Kosmac, and Drenica--to realize that the 37th Motorized Brigade had one of the most difficult and most responsible tasks in the battles in Kosovo. It performed its task more than successfully, as

only national heroes can. Not only were they the striking fist of the Pristina Corps, but also the chief support to the other brigades for which they provided conditions for successful combat actions. Simply, their bravery, heroism, and enthusiasm were also the flanks for great acts in other units.

Although the 37th Brigade has the adjective "motorized" in its name, the main bearer of all tasks was the infantry--of course, with the support of tanks and artillery. It could not have been otherwise.

Life for Freedom

The soldier's boot had to pass everywhere to destroy the Albanian terrorist forces and to control the territory. In those merciless battles, the heroes of the 37th Brigade did not regret even their own lives. The First Battalion, the pride of the whole brigade--which (as Colonel Dikovic says) "from movement" shattered and destroyed the strongest terrorist bases in one of the battles near the village of Istok Mahala--was left without its celebrated commander, Captain First Class Dragan Mitrovic. Alongside him also died Captain First Class Boro Adzenovic, who always showed with his personal **example** what an assistant commander for information and morale should be. Always ahead of his soldiers, Captain Mitrovic led his brave lads then as well. The death of the commander did not cause hesitation. In Captain Mitrovic's place in battle stood his deputy, Captain Aleksandar Markovic, and the village was taken a few hours later. Shoulder to shoulder with them, First Battalion's cluster of heroes also included Captain First Class Borivoje Novakovic--wounded in battles near the villages of Dobrostan and Banjica, Captains Bratislav Mihajlovic and Milan Barlov, and Captain Dragan Jasnic, who was killed near the village of Banjica.

The Second Battalion, under the command of Captain Dejan Randjelovic, broke up strong bases of the Albanian terrorist forces in the regions of the villages of Likovac, Gornje Obrinje, and Donje Obrinje, where hand-to-hand battles were waged. In those battles, a hero was born in the figure of Sergeant Kosta Kartalovic who infiltrated a terrorist nest with his platoon and one tank, took control of that stronghold, and thereby resolved the combat task assigned to the whole battalion. In addition to the Medal for Bravery earned in a bloody battle, Sergeant Kartalovic now wears the rank of Junior Lieutenant on his shoulder. The Third Battalion was involved in cleaning up the most difficult terrain in the Cicavica and Drenica mountains, under the leadership of Major Drazenko Miric and Lieutenant Zoran Gavrilovic, who died heroically, leading his troops in an attack on an Albanian base. Of course, all the brigade's undoubtedly heroic feats would have been unimaginable without the howitzer battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Pudja, of whom all in the brigade claim that, when even a head could not be raised in Kosovo because of the aggressor's bombing, his howitzers roared like St. Elijah the Thunderer and protected the infantry's successful penetration. The real heroes also included the tank drivers from Captain First Class Goran Jovanovic's armored battalion, which not only entered with its steel monsters into such enemy strongholds as Likosan, Likovac, Rezala, and Bradic, but also succeeded in hiding from the NATO airplanes so well that only one tank was lost in military actions on the territory of Kosovo and Metohija.

Finally, the commander of the 37th Motorized Brigade stated, "Under exceptionally difficult and complicated conditions such as are not remembered in the history of warfare, only this people and its army could receive such tasks and resolve them in this way. Only the descendants of King Lazar, Obilic, Karadjordjevic, Misic, Stepa, Vukotic, and Sava Kovacevic, with the genetic code of warriors. As always, when bloody battles are waged for the fatherland, the officers went ahead. The unit proved and showed how to defend the fatherland and provided an **example** to

future generations, without regretting even their lives in that battle. The brigade's lasting tasks in the days of peace are caring for the families of our fallen hero comrades and good preparation for the coming tasks. If it is necessary, if the people and the fatherland call on us again--and that is expected of us heroes--I am certain that in a few hours we shall again be where it is necessary."

[box, p. 9]

That Is How To Defend Serbian Dignity and Military Honor

After awarding the National Hero Medal to the commander of the 37th Motorized Brigade, Colonel Ljubisa Dikovic, at the celebration of Yugoslav Army Day in Raska on 16 June, the special representative of Supreme Commander Slobodan Milosevic and Third Army commander, Colonel General Nebojsa Pavkovic, stated:

"The heroes of the 37th Motorized Brigade have returned to our city. They are our sons, brothers, husbands, friends. You have greeted them as ordinary men, but you did not know that every one of them is a hero in himself. In front of the whole world public, they showed how to defend the fatherland, how to defend Serbian dignity, and how to defend military honor. They were there where it was most difficult and felt the strikes from the air space as well as the treacherous attacks of the Albanian terrorist forces, which they withstood heroically, and now part of the unit is before us. What is there to say to you who know everything? You were there, you showed who you are, and you can raise your heads with pride to say how you became heroes... Thank you in the name of the fatherland, to which you gave everything that you could. And, with deepest piety, we shall always remember our fallen hero comrades."

[box, p. 10]

Pristina Corps Commander, Lieutenant Colonel General Vladimir Lazarevic: "Only the Descendants of Cer, Kolubara, and Kadinjaca Heroes Could Do It"

"Heroes of our fatherland. Honor and pride that the unit, which wrote new pages of history these days, is being decorated with the National Hero Medal. Medals are awarded to heroes after heroic acts. Acts that will remain in the history of our peoples have evoked the wonder of the whole freedom-loving world. You were like our celebrated ancestors from the rich treasury of our free past and have remained upright, dignified, braced, and determined at any price to defend the honor and pride of our fatherland. You heroes from Cacavica, Drenica, and all the other lines of defense returned the confidence, remembrance, and conscience of freedom-loving humanity and remained proud, upright, and dignified before the blackest forces of darkness that humanity has met in its history. You did not hesitate for a single moment. You knew that justice would triumph. You knew that you would give your lives, but for the salvation of true freedom, democracy, and justice. And not only in our country, but in all of Europe. That could be done only by the descendants of Lazar, Karadjorge, Sindjelic, the descendants of the heroes from Cer, Macva Kamen, Kolubara, Kadinjaca, and the other sacred places."

[box, p. 10]

37th Motorized Brigade Commander, Colonel Ljubisa Dikovic

How could a boy whose veins flowed with the blood of heroic Salonika Front veterans be other than brave and strong? At the beginning of the war in 1941, Grandfather Dragan Dikovic--a proud and honorable Serbian household head, Salonika Front warrior, Karadjordje Medal recipient--was deported by the Germans from the village of Zbojstica, near Uzice, to Norway, where they shot him the same year. As a mischievous little boy, Ljubisa only listened to tales of his grandfather Dikovic and his feats in the First World War. He had someone from whom to listen. His maternal grandfather, Arandjel Radosavljevic, his grandfather Dragan's best friend

and fellow soldier, told Ljubisa how the two of them once waged war to more quickly defeat the Germans.

The whole village was bothered by Ljubisa's mischief then. Were it not for Grandfather Arandjel, who was the untouchable authority in Zbojstica, young Ljubisa would have been spanked. In moments of defense, Grandfather Arandjel often knew to say, "Don't anyone raise a hand to the little one, that one will be minister of the army and navy!" Wishing to continue the tradition of his grandfathers, in 1975 Ljubisa went to the infantry military secondary school in Sarajevo. Barely waiting to see his grandson in uniform, Grandfather Arandjel died the same year.

Military schools and special promotions followed. After finishing KOV [Ground Forces] Military Academy, General Staff School followed. Excellent grades were expected in the Dikovic family. His first special promotion to the rank of major in 1994 found him at the duty of Border Battalion commander in Bajina Basta, defending the fatherland from attacks by Muslim extremists from Skelani, Srebrenica, and Bratunac. His second special promotion, to the rank of colonel, found him again at the barricades of the fatherland in Kosovo, in the command position in Glogovac. The commander of the 37th Motorized Brigade, which received the National Hero Medal, Colonel Ljubisa Dikovic says that he is happiest that everyone in his unit, from the highest officer to the soldiers, received the highest fatherland decoration. He added that he intended his services for heroic acts on behalf of his family--wife Milica, son Nemanja, and daughter Bojana--without whose support and sacrifice he would not have succeeded.

[Description of Source: Vojska: Military weekly published by the Federal Ministry of Defense; is strongly supportive of the Milosevic regime and Serbian nationalism]

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KEEP PERMANENTLY
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Pr /Priština/ CORPS COMMAND
Strictly confidential no. 888-1
29 April 1999

URGENT

To the Commander, personally

Despite the continuing insistence by the PrK /Priština Corps/ Command that all subordinate units ensure perfect organization of work, the highest level of order and discipline, and complete monitoring and combat control of the territory, uncontrolled movement by troops in an aimless and most unsoldierly manner, is a daily occurrence around and outside the defence zone, which may have unforeseeable consequences for the security and the overall combat readiness of units (E.g. 37th mtbr /Motorised Brigade/, 354th pbr /Infantry Brigade/, 7th pbr, and 175th pbr).

To ensure full implementation of orders issued to date by the PrK Command and prevent further threat to the security of units, I hereby

O R D E R:

1. Use every means available at the level of Brigade and lower-level units to ensure a fully operational and uninterrupted system of command down to the last soldier. Prevent any form of wilful behaviour of individuals or groups, as well as uncontrolled movement by the men.
2. By employing the system of full control of the troops, ensure that no one enters or leaves the zone of responsibility without the knowledge and consent of a superior officer.
3. Insist uncompromisingly on the proper appearance of all members of the Corps and the protection of the VJ's /Yugoslav Army's/ reputation at any cost.
4. Inform all members of the Corps of their duties and tasks; the commanders of units shall be personally answerable to me for the implementation of this order.

VL/MT

COMMANDER
Major General
Vladimir LAZAREVIĆ

The telegram may be sent
Colonel
Tomislav JOVIĆ
/signed and stamped/

/stamp/

RECEIVED:		0850	/signed/
(day and month)		(hour and minute)	(signature)
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(code name) (telegram no.) (group no.)	urgency	(processing method)	(communications station no.)
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DELIVERED:			
(day and month)		(hour and minute)	(signature)

Send: a) by courier: 15th okbr /Armoured Brigade/, 52nd bv /?Communications Battalion/, 52nd bABHO /Atomic-Biological-Chemical Defence Battalion/, 52nd čEIO /Electronic Reconnaissance and Jamming Company/, 52nd idč /Reconnaissance and Sabotage Company/, KS /Headquarters Administration/, KVOk /Military District Command/, 202nd PoB /Logistics Base/.

b) encrypted: 37th, 125th and 549th mtbr /motorised brigades/, 7th, 175th and 354th pbr /infantry brigades/, 58th lpbr /Light Infantry Brigade/, 52nd arbr /Artillery Brigade/ of the PVO /Anti-Aircraft Protection/, 52nd mabr /Mixed Artillery Brigade/, 243rd mbr /Mechanised Brigade/, 211th and 252nd okbr /armoured brigades/, TG-252 /Tactical Group-152/, 192nd inž.p. /Engineering Regiment/, 52nd snb /Medical Battalion/, IKM /Forward Command Post/ of the PrK (Đakovica)

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No. 32

3rd ARMY COMMAND
DT /state secret/ no. 6034-7/1
29 July 1998

DEFENCE
STATE SECRET
GROM 98
Copy no. 1

ORDER

to smash DTS /sabotage and terrorist forces/ and armed rebellion forces in Kosovo and Metohija

MAP: 1:200,000 Sections: Valjevo, Kragujevac, Zaječar, Vidin, Peć, K. Mitrovica, Niš, Sofia, Shkoder, Skopje, Kumanovo and Kyustendil

1. – THE ENEMY

Terrorist forces in Kosovo and Metohija, under the direct command of the DSK /Democratic League of Kosovo/ and backed by the Republic of Albania and some countries in the international community/the West, after unlawfully obtaining NVO /weapons and military equipment/ and setting up a partial military organisation, have continued with their ruthless terrorist actions against the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/, the Serbian and Montenegrin people, the VJ /Yugoslav Army/ members and part of the Albanian national minority loyal to the state.

The *Šiptar* /Albanian/ terrorist forces in Kosovo and Metohija number about 15,000 armed men and about 5,000 people for various forms of logistic support. There are 2-3,000 trained terrorists in the Republic of Albania (Bajram Curri, Tropoja, Kukës), expected to infiltrate Kosovo and Metohija. The number of terrorists could rise by about 15,000 in a very short time.

Most of the terrorists are concentrated in the Drenica area, in the west part of Metohija and villages which gravitate towards the border with the Republic of Albania. The terrorist forces are distributed as follows: about 3,500-4,000 are concentrated in the Drenica area (Glogovac, Klina, Srbica), about 1,500-2,000 in the Jablanica (Đakovica) area, Glodane, Istinić, Dečane, about 1,500-2,000 in the general areas of Mališevo, Dobrodeljane, Blace, Studeničani and Raštane (Suva Reka), about 500-1,000 in the Ratkovac, Drenovac and Radošte (Orahovac) areas and about 1,000-1,500 terrorists in the border area facing the Republic of Albania, mostly in the areas of Junik village, Smonica, Nivokaz and Ereč.

The leaders and the main body of terrorists are made up of former JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/ and the provincial SUP /Secretariat of the Interior/ members, political convicts and persons who were deployed in armed formations on the Bosnia and Herzegovina front and in the Republic of Croatia, and there is also a large number of mercenaries, above all from the Islamic countries.

The terrorist forces have light automatic weapons, equipment for POB /anti-armour combat/ (hand-held launchers, bazookas, *Zoljas* /hand-held rocket launchers/ and *Ambrusts* /hand-held rocket launchers/), 60 and 82 mm MBs /mortars/, 12.7 mm PAM /anti-aircraft machine-guns/, BsT /recoilless guns/, rifle grenades, PT /anti-tank/ and PP /anti-personnel/ mines and hand grenades.

By launching terrorist attacks on Kosovo and Metohija, the terrorists succeeded in taking control of about 30 per cent of the territory. They control Gornja Drenica, Studeničane, the Jasić sector, Junik, Smonica, Istinić, Glodane and Jablanica. They are organising the evacuation and reception of and care for the *Šiptar* people from the rural parts of Đakovica, Ponoševac and Dečane, organising refugee shelters in the Erečka šuma, Erenik and Jablanica areas.

Alongside the DTA, the terrorists continued to carry out both forced and voluntary mobilisation of the *Šiptar* population and deploy them in military units. They carried out training and fortification work in villages, hamlets and on roads and collected NVO /weapons and military equipment/, mainly those for POB and PVB /anti-aircraft warfare/ and weapons for DTGs /sabotage and terrorist groups/.

Along the key roads, especially in Metohija, the terrorists constructed features for armed attacks and protection. Most of the populated places have been organised and prepared for long-term b/d /combat operations/.

In order to achieve their goal – separate Kosovo and Metohija from the FRY /Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/ and annex it to the Republic of Albania, the terrorists will try again to establish and maintain control of part of the border area with the Republic of Albania (Junik - Đakovica and Đakovica – Prizren), broaden the control of territory along the Mališevo – Štimlje – Uroševac – Kačanik – Pološka Kotlina (Republic of Macedonia), establish close contact with the Muslims in the Raška – Polimlje area and spread the operations to urban areas, causing a general rebellion throughout Kosovo and Metohija.

Foreign players have assessed the VJ current tasks and activities in Kosovo and Metohija as justified, aimed to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the FRY. NATO would interpret the bringing of any new VJ units and their deployment in Kosovo and Metohija as "inappropriate use of force against innocent people", which the international community could use as an excuse to pass a UN Security Council Resolution for NATO engagement against the FRY.

A NATO military engagement could be considered only as a last resort, if efforts by the international community to reach a political solution to the crisis end up in a complete failure, or if there is a risk of clashes in Kosovo and Metohija spreading to the entire Balkan region, for which plans have been drafted already.

The OS /armed forces/ of the neighbouring countries are on regular b/g /combat readiness (with the exception of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia, where border units and parts of the MUP towards the FRY are on heightened level of b/g) and do not pose a direct threat to the security of the 3rd Army zone of responsibility.

In the event of a NATO military engagement against the FRY, we can expect air strikes on military and industrial targets within Kosovo and Metohija and deeper into the area of strategic importance, attacks by land forces to the strength of one md /mechanised division//VB /expansion unknown/ from the KZR /expansion unknown/ in the Republic of Albania along the Kukës-Vrbnica-Suva Reka-Priština axis and from the Republic of Macedonia, to the strength of one md/T /expansion unknown/ from the KZR along the Kumanovo-Vranje axis. As the armed rebellion in Kosovo and Metohija gains momentum, the engagement of Albanian forces can be expected - two pd along the operational and tactical axes until they reach the Dečane-Đakovica-Prizren line, and the engagement of *Šiptar* /Albanian/ forces – two or three brigades from the Republic of Macedonia along the operational and tactical axes until they reach the Trgovište-Bujanovac-Preševo-Uroševac line, from where NATO can be expected to use the land forces of the Rapid Deployable Corps in order to take control of Kosovo and Metohija and establish a protectorate.

2. - ARMY TASKS

- In the first phase, the forces engaged in the zone of the PrK /Priština Corps/, stand-by forces by 0600 hours and reinforcement forces: BG /combat group/ - 252/252st okbr /armoured brigade/ - 1st Army, BG-37/37th mtbr /motorised brigade/ - 2nd Army, BG-3/63 padbr /parachute brigade/ (strength – see attachment no. 1), are to step up in-depth security of the state borders with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia in the PrK zone, protect units and military features from DTG attacks and ensure road passability for unit supplies.

In a coordinated action with Serbian MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ forces, launch rapid attacks to smash and destroy DT forces in Kosovo and Metohija in accordance with the special order of the GŠ VJ /Yugoslav Army General Staff/.

Resubordinate combat groups in accordance with the 3rd Army Command.

Support RV and PVO /Air Force and Anti-aircraft Defence/ with 18 a/p /air sorties/ LBA /fighter-bomber aircraft/ and 70 hours of transport daily.

- In the second phase, mobilise the PrK, the Priština VOk /military district/, the 7th pbr /infantry brigade/, the 78th mtbr, the 175th pbr, the 211th okbr, the 203rd and 150th mabr /mixed artillery brigades/ and the 202nd PoB /anti-armour battalion/; put the units on full b/g /combat readiness/, carry out an operational deployment, smash the armed rebellion forces in Kosovo and Metohija and prevent the crisis from "spilling over" to the area of the Pčinja and Jablanica districts. Subordinate the 252nd okbr for this task, as requested by the 3rd Army Command.

Be on stand-by in sectors of engagement 16 days after the mobilisation signal is given at the latest.

PVO units to protect the main forces in a coordinated action with the PVO operation, carried out by RV and PVO forces.

Provide combat security for detached RV and PVO features in Kosovo and Metohija, as requested by the RV and PVO Command.

Support RV and PVO with: 12 reconnaissance aircraft a/p /air sorties/, 100 LBA /fighter-bomber aircraft/ a/p, 112 combat helicopter sorties and 75 hours of helicopter transport.

Be on stand-by to mobilise the entire 3rd Army.

3. – TASKS OF THE ADJACENT FORCES:

3.1. – 1st ARMY

- In the first phase, prepare to resubordinate BG-252/252nd okbr to the 3rd Army, as requested by the 3rd Army Command.

- In the second phase, mobilise the 252nd okbr, place it on full b/g and resubordinate to the 3rd Army Command at the latter's request.

Resubordinate the 252nd okbr in the sector of engagement 16 days after receiving the mobilisation signal.

Be on stand-by to put up defence from attacks from the Republic of Croatia and to mobilize the entire 1st Army.

3.2. – 2nd Army

- In the first phase, the forces engaged in the Podgorica Corps zone are to step up security of the DG /state border/ with the Republic of Albania. By 0600 hours, engage stand-by forces as reinforcement for the forces securing the border when needed, check the movement along the roads leading to Kosovo and Metohija and prevent terrorists from crossing over to Kosovo and Metohija from the 2nd Army zone. Prepare to resubordinate BG-37/37th mtbr to the 3rd Army, as requested by the 3rd Army Command.

- In the second phase, mobilise the 37th and 168th mtbr, the 57th pbr, the 3rd and 6th lpbr and the 36th bbr and place them on full b/g. Prevent the crisis from spilling over to the Raška - Podlimlje district, infiltrate DT forces into Kosovo and Metohija from the 2nd Army zone and smash any armed rebellion forces in the RPO /Raška-Prizren District/ area. Be on stand-by for defence from attacks from the Republic of Albania and the BH /Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Federation.

Be on stand-by for engagement 17 days after receiving the mobilisation signal at the latest.

Be on stand-by to mobilise the entire 2nd Army.

3.3. – RV and PVO

- In the first phase, the forces engaged in Kosovo and Metohija, in a coordinated action with the 3rd Army forces are to protect RV and PVO units and features from DTG attacks and support 3rd Army forces with 18 LBA a/p and 70 hours of helicopter transport daily.

- In the second phase, mobilise: the 311th ssrp /medium self-propelled rocket regiment/ of the PVO, the 83rd lap /expansion unknown/, the 492nd vb /expansion unknown/ and place them on full b/g. Mobilised and peace-time forces: the 119th hp, 241/98 lb lbap /expansion unknown/ and 7/353 iae /expansion unknown/ to support the 3rd Army with: 12 reconnaissance aircraft a/p, 90 combat aircraft a/p, 112 combat helicopter h/p and 75 hours of helicopter transport daily.

Prepare for and be on stand-by to carry out the PVO operation in accordance with the special order.

Be on stand-by to mobilise the entire RV and PVO.

3.4. – Special Units Corps

- In the first phase, engage the resubordinated forces of the 3rd Army in Kosovo and Metohija as per the decision of the 3rd Army Command. Prepare to resubordinate BG-3/63 padbr to the 3rd Army Command as requested by the 3rd Army Command.

- In the second phase, mobilise the 63rd padbr, the 72nd specbr /special brigade/ and the 25th bVP /Military Police battalion/ and place them on full b/g 10 days after receiving the mobilisation signal, and be on stand-by for engagement in accordance with a special order.

Be on stand-by to mobilise the entire KSJ /Special Units Corps/.

3.5. – Serbian MUP forces in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Pčinja district are to block, smash and destroy DTS in coordination with 3rd Army forces.

4. I HAVE HEREBY DECIDED: to engage part of the permanent army force, reinforced by other VJ units, to continue with the intensified in-depth security of the state borders with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia in the army zone of responsibility, protect units and military features from DTG attacks and ensure road passability in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Pčinja district.

Furthermore, based on a special order issued by the VJ GŠ, in coordinated action with Serbian MUP forces, launch rapid and energetic attacks to smash and destroy DT forces in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Pčinja district.

In the event of unfavourable developments, and based on indications that DT attacks may grow into an armed rebellion, carry out mobilisation and operational deployment of part of the army forces, then launch an energetic action to smash and destroy the armed rebellion forces in Kosovo and Metohija and prevent them from spilling over to the Pčinja and Jablanica districts. Ensure total control of the territory and be on stand-by to mobilise the whole of the army.

Carry out the task in two stages:

In the first stage lasting seven to 10 days, engage the entire permanent contingent of the PrK, reinforced by part of the permanent NK /the Niš Corps /contingent, in the Corps zones of responsibility and continue with the intensified in-depth security of the DG with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia in the army zone of responsibility, protect units and features from DTG attacks and ensure road passability for unit supplies in Kosovo and Metohija and the Pčinja district.

Launch rapid and energetic attacks, in coordination with Serbian MUP forces, to smash and destroy DT forces in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Pčinja district, in accordance with my special order.

In the second stage, mobilise: the PrK, the Priština VOk, the 7th pbr, the 78th mtbr, the 175th pbr, the 211th okbr, the 203rd mabr, the 150th mabr and the 202nd PoB; place the units on full b/g, carry out operational deployment and in 10-15 days' time smash and destroy the armed rebellion forces in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Pčinja district, preventing the forces from spilling over from Kosovo and Metohija to the Pčinja and Jablanica districts.

Operational deployment:

- forces securing the state border,
- forces protecting military features,
- forces ensuring passable roads and controlling the territory,
- forces securing combat operations and
- commanding forces.

Stand-by:

- for intensified and in-depth security of the state border and protection of military facilities – immediately,
- for ensuring road passability and smashing and destroying DTG – 6 August at 0500 hours,
- for destroying DTS in accordance with the special order and
- for destroying armed rebellion forces by engaging mobilised units in M + 12 /reference unknown/.

5. – UNIT TASKS

5.1. – Priština Corps

- In the first phase, engage the entire permanent contingent of the PrK; /in coordination/ with: BG-21, the 21st idč /reconnaissance and sabotage company/, ič/211 okbr, ič/78 mtbr and 21st čVP//Military Police company//NK; 1/203 mabr; BG-2 and 5/72 specbr and BG-3/63 padbr/KSJ; idč/KK /Kragujevac Corps/, ič/252 okbr, BG-252/252 okbr-1st Army; and BG-37/37 mtbr-2nd Army, continue with intensified in-depth security of the state borders with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia in the zone of responsibility, protect units and features from DTG attacks and ensure passable roads for unit supplies.

Launch rapid and energetic attacks in coordination with Serbian MUP forces to smash and destroy DT forces in the zone of responsibility, in accordance with my special order.

The resubordination of BG-252/252 okbr-1st Army, BG-37/37 mtbr-2nd Army and 3/63 padbr to be regulated by the special order.

Support RV and PVO as requested.

The KM /command post/ in the Gračanica village sector.

- In the second phase, with the Priština VOk, the 7th pbr, the 175th pbr, the 252nd okbr, the 150th mabr, the 1st battalion of the 203 mabr and 202nd PoB, after the mobilisation and operational deployment, smash and destroy the armed rebellion forces in Kosovo and Metohija, ensure the full control of the territory and prevent the forces spilling over from Kosovo and Metohija to the Pčinja and Jablanica districts.

The resubordination of forces to be regulated by the special order.

Support AAG /army artillery group/-3 and RV and PVO as requested.

The KM in the Dulje pass sector.

5.2. – Niš Corps

- In the first phase, engage the 1st company of the 42 grb /border battalion/, intervention platoons of the 42nd and 23rd grb and BG-78; continue with the intensified and in-depth security of the state border with the Republic of Macedonia in the zone of responsibility, protect units and military features from DTG /sabotage and terrorist group/ attacks and ensure road passability for unit supplies.

In a coordinated action with Serbian MUP forces, launch rapid and energetic attacks to smash and destroy DT forces in Kosovo and Metohija and in the Pčinja district, in accordance with my special order.

The KM is in a peace-time location sector.

- In the second phase, mobilise the 7th and 175th pbr, the 78th mtbr, the 211th okbr and the 150th mabr and place them on full b/g /combat readiness/.

Resubordinate the 7th and 175th pbr and the 150th mabr to the Priština Corps, and engage the 211th okbr as a reserve force for the 3rd Army Command .

Smash and destroy the armed rebellion forces in the Pčinja district, ensure the full control of the territory and prevent the forces in Kosovo and Metohija from spilling over and vice versa.

The IKM /forward command post/ in the Vranje sector.

5.3. – 211th okbr

- In the first phase, engage BG-211 as a reserve force for the army command in the sectors of Gornja Dubnica, Donja Dubnica and Dobri Do with the task of destroying DTG in the general area of Podujevo, ensure passability on the Merdare village-Podujevo-Priština road and be on stand-by to smash and destroy DTS in the Malo Kosovo region.

- In the second phase, after the mobilisation, /in coordination/ with the 2nd battalion of the 203 mabr, take the sectors of Dobrotin village, Merdare village and Podujevo, as /?part of/ the army command reserve engage part of the forces to ensure passability of the Rača village-Merdare village-Podujevo-Priština road and be on stand-by to destroy the armed rebellion forces along the Podujevo-Batlavsko Jezero and Podujevo-Kosovska Mitrovica axes.
The KM in the Merdare village sector.

5.4. – Priština VOk

- In the first phase, prepare to mobilise own unit and VJ units within your jurisdiction.
- In the second phase, resubordinate to the PrK Command, which is to be regulated by a special order.

5.5. – 202nd PoB /anti-armour battalion/

- In the first phase, carry out regular POb tasks, focusing on units in Kosovo and Metohija, and prepare for mobilisation.
- In the second phase, resubordinate to the PrK Command, which is to be regulated by a special order.

6. – FIRE SUPPORT

6.1. - Air support

- In the first phase, fighter-bomber aircraft to support PrK g/s /the main forces/ in smashing DTS by carrying out air strikes on DTS strongholds, as requested by the PrK.

TrHe /transport helicopters/ to use the allocated flying hours for urgent medical transport and supplies of smaller quantities of important MTS /materiel and technical equipment/.

Eighteen LBA a/p and 70 hours of transport daily have been approved in the first phase of the operation.

- In the second phase, reconnaissance aircraft to reconnoitre the area bordering with the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia, focusing on the Drim-Kosovo axis, with the aim of detecting the marshalling area and monitoring the movements of the *Šiptar* rebel forces.

LBA to support the PrK main forces in smashing the armed rebellion in Kosovo and Metohija by launching air strikes on major rebel strongholds.

TrHe to transport army special forces tasked with destroying DTG, take care of the wounded and injured, transport the dead and vital materiel equipment.

The following have been approved in the second phase: 12 IA /reconnaissance aviation/ a/p /air sorties/, 10 LBA a/p, 112 combat helicopter a/p and 75 transport hours.

6.2. – Artillery fire support

- In the first phase, artillery support to focus on neutralising observed unprotected group targets. Destroy identified firing positions and bunkers by direct fire.

Artillery support for BJ units and MUP forces to be provided by the approval of the ZTJ /joint tactical unit/ commander, with special provisions for observation and fire control.

- In the second phase, form the following: AAG /army artillery group/ -3 made up of the 203rd mabr (without the 1st and 2nd 130-mm tad /cannon artillery battalion/), the group commander and the commander of the 203rd mabr.

VPo /basic firing position/ in sectors: Vučitrn, Smrekovica village and Štitarica. village.

VZn /fire zone/ to the right: Košutovo village-Ukča; to the left: Stanica (tt /trig. point/ 1091 – Dobroštan (tt 843).

D /expansion unknown/ VZn to the right: Vidovo Brdo (tt 919)-Radopolje (tt 1749); to the left: Mijailić village-Slatina village.

Observation post in the sector of Čubrelj (tt 756)

The KM in the sector of Luka village.

Tasks:

Support forces on the attack along the Kučište-Rudnik village-Rakuš village axis and the Srbica-Turićevac village-Jošanica village axis.

Secure forces on the right flank from the Radopolje village-Crepulja village axis.

Secure forces on the left flank from the Ade village-Likošani village axis and the south-west slopes of Mt. Čičevica.

Resubordinate the 2nd battalion of the 203 mabr to the 211th okbr command throughout the assignment, in accordance with the special order.

7. ANTI-ARMOUR COMBAT

Support VJ and MUP units with selective attacks on identified features and bunkers, forming a GONG /direct fire artillery group/ using 90 mm SO /self-propelled gun/ artillery pieces and 100 mm T-12 POT /expansion unknown/.

8. - ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE /PVO/

VOJ /air surveillance and warning/ to focus on the Drim-Kosovo axis. Monitor the situation in VaP /airspace/ at TO 31st OC /?operations centre/ S /expansion unknown/ PVO and own surveillance organs.

Set up VOS /visual observation stations/ along the channelled aircraft incoming trajectory and the trajectory with P-12 radar restriction.

Focus PVB /anti-aircraft warfare/ on applying PVZ /anti-aircraft protection/ measures.

- In the first phase, engage PVO ARJ /artillery rocket units/ to smash and destroy DTS, and in the second phase, for defence from air attacks /?by/ sections of b/r /combat formation/ units.

When applying PVZ measures, focus on camouflaging and establishing units in redeployment areas.

In the second phase, units are to move at night. Restrict movement in redeployment areas and use hidden routes for unit supplies.

9. - COUNTER-ELECTRONIC WARFARE

Continue with intensive and round-the-clock EI /electronic reconnaissance/ of DTS radio communications and mobile telephony.

PEZ /counter-electronic protection/ to be implemented continuously and in an organised and planned manner.

PEBD /counter-electronic combat operations/ to be carried out within the framework of combat operations.

10. – COMBAT SECURITY

10.1. – Intelligence security

- In the first phase, focus intelligence security on gathering /intelligence/ data, detecting and monitoring DTS in Kosovo and Metohija.

Carry out surveillance, gather data and monitor the activities of parts of the 2nd pd and forces of the Ministry of Order in the border area of the Republic of Albania, as well as the activities of international forces on the border line with the FRY and within the Republic of Albania.

Collect data by relying on own forces and resources and exchanging information with MUP forces.

Engage Idj /?reconnaissance and sabotage units/ on gathering data on the situation and activities of DTS in Kosovo and Metohija and along the axes leading from the Republic of Albania to Kosovo and Metohija. Engage some of these forces in securing DG /the state border/ with the Republic of Albania, and if need be, with the Republic of Macedonia.

- In the second phase, focus intelligence security on gathering data on armed rebellion forces. Monitor the situation and activities of NATO forces in the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia.

Use the allocated number (12) of IA /reconnaissance aviation/ a/p /air sorties/ for the reconnaissance of armed rebellion forces on the main axis of operation in Kosovo and Metohija.

Collect data by relying on own forces and resources and exchanging information with MUP forces.

Idj /reconnaissance and sabotage units/ to focus on gathering data on the situation and activities of DTS and armed rebellion forces, establishing their strength, grouping, intentions and method of action.

Engage some of the forces in detecting and monitoring NATO ground forces along the operational and tactical axes from the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia towards Kosovo and Metohija.

10.2. – Security support

Ensure the full confidentiality and protection of decisions and orders and prevent all forms of destructive or any other negative conduct in units.

Enhance security measures for KM /command post/ units and detached military features against DTS attacks.

Impose a prescribed security system on roads and in redeployment and engagement areas.

Engage the 3rd bVP in securing the army's IKMs and KMs.

10.3. Security

Secure movements using own forces and resources, in coordination with MUP forces.

10. Engineering support

- In the first phase, focus engineering support on securing movements.

Make assessments within groups and ensure the first degree of protection of ž/s /personnel/ and MTS.

- In the second phase, focus engineering support on securing movements and laying obstacles to the axes from the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia to Kosovo and Metohija.

Ensure the second degree of protection through assessment.

In addition to own forces, engage specialised enterprises to deal with specific engineering support tasks.

10.5. – Moral support and information

Motivate the troops for combat tasks through direct moral and psychological preparation in all units.

Prevent instances of defeatism, panic and fear. By setting a personal example, above all by demonstrating courage and good commanding skills, officers must ensure that moral strength and motivation in all units are raised.

Consistently observe the dictates of international humanitarian law and the /International/ Law of War.

Allow the media access to Kosovo and Metohija, but only with the approval and in accordance with the plans of the 3rd Army Command.

10.6. – Logistics support /PoOb/

Plan and implement logistics support with own forces and resources, relying on own existing resources and reserves of the 3rd Army and allocated VJ facilities and territories, in two phases:

- In the first phase, organise PoOb according to the existing scheme. PoOb units engaged in redeployment and engagement areas are to provide full support to reinforcement units.
- In the second phase, PoOb to be organised according to the PoOb war-time scheme.

Focus PoOb on supplying UBS /weapons/ and fuel and taking care of p/o /the sick and wounded/.

Priority to be given to equipment for anti-personnel combat, support artillery and ammunition for combat vehicles.

The following MS /materiel/ consumption has been approved for assignments:

<u>Type of ammunition</u>	<u>1st phase</u>	<u>2nd phase</u>
- ammunition for infantry weapons	2 b/k /combat sets/	3 b/k
- ammunition for artillery support	1 b/k	2 b/k
- ammunition for PO artillery	0.5 b/k	1 b/k
- rockets	0.5 b/k	0.5 b/k
- ammunition for PVO weapons	0.5 b/k	1 b/k
- ammunition for combat vehicles	1 b/k	2 b/k
- Fuel:		
- petrol	1 p/r /tankful/	2 p/r
- diesel	1 p/r	1.5 p/r

Supply all /?troop/ units with MS up to the amount of their rations /?to/ stand-by level.

Troops to be given hot meals and Kd /expansion unknown/ meals to be distributed only to units directly engaged in combat operations.

The planned traffic regime in the PrK zone to be applied on the following roads:

- In the first phase: on the Podujevo – Priština – Klina - Peć, Priština – Štimlje – Prizren - Đakovica and Kosovska Mitrovica – Klina – Peć roads.
- In the second phase: on all other roads used for unit supplies.

Store in logistics bases all MS confiscated from terrorist forces or found, and use only with the approval of the 3rd Army Command.

11. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

The 3rd Army IKM - in Priština's *Kosovski Junaci* barracks, in the first and second phases.

The KM - in the first phase, in a peace-time location sector and in the second, in Kuršumlja.

Organise communications for the purpose of coordinating actions and cooperating with MUP forces.

The 52nd K /expansion unknown/ CSV /Stationary Communications Centre/ is to ensure the functioning of the system of stationary communications in the PrK zone.

Send reports on the situation at 1800 hours at 2000 daily and interim once when needed.

Attachments:

- no. 1 – Composition and strength of combat groups.
- no. 2 – Decision on the map for phase one.
- no. 3 – Decision on the map for phase two.

Drawn up by:

Major-General

Tomislav MLADENović

Typed by:

Major

Ivica RAKIĆ

COMMANDER
Colonel-General
Dušan SAMARDŽIĆ
/signed/

Typed in five copies and delivered to:

- Copy no. 1 – PrK Command
- Copy no. 2 – NK Command
- Copy no. 3 – 203rd mabr Command
- Copy no. 4 – 202nd PoB Command
- Copy no. 5 – Priština VOk Command

Attachment no. 1

COMPOSITION AND STRENGTH OF COMBAT GROUPS

1. – BG-3/63 padbr: Command, oVP, ov, padidč /?parachute reconnaissance and sabotage company/ , oC-2M and meš.pozv /mixed logistics platoon/ – 108 men
2. – BG-37/37 mtbr: Command, ov /armoured vehicles/, sv, 82 mm vMB /mortar platoon/, meš.pozv – 100 men
3. – BG-252/252 okbr: Command, ov, tč /tank company/ with vehicles, poiono, pozv /expansion unknown/ - 101 men, 11 tanks, four OT /armoured personnel carriers/ and six vehicles.

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JOINT COMMAND FOR KiM /Kosovo and Metohija/ MILITARY SECRET

Strictly Confidential no. 455-54 /handwritten: 56/ STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

22 March 1999

/stamped/

DECISION

**to Crush and Destroy the ŠTS /Šiptar /Albanian/ terrorist forces/
in the sector of Donja Drenica**

Map Section 1:50,000 Kosovska Mitrovica 2 and 4

4. DECISION:

I decided as follows: carry out an attack engaging the main forces on the following axis: village of Poljance – village of Trstenik and village of Prelovac – village of Likošane, and auxiliary forces on the following axis: village of Gladno Selo – village of Likošane and village of Novo Čikatovo – village of Trstenik.

Objective: attacking vigorously from a semi-circular support point in coordinated action with the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ of the Republic of Serbia, crush and destroy the ŠTS on the attack axes.

Use part of the forces to prevent incursion and withdrawal of the ŠTS into the area of Čičavica and western Drenica.

Further goal is to provide viability of the main roads and combat control of the territory of Donja Drenica.

Combat operations are to last 1-2 days.

Operation formation:

- forces for crushing and destroying the ŠTS
- blockade forces
- support forces
- forces providing b/g /combat readiness/
- command and communications forces

Readiness at 0700 on 23 March 1999

5. – UNIT TASKS:

5.1. 125th mtbr /motorised brigade/ (BG /combat group/-125-1 and BG-252)

Continue to attack from the line reached: village of Novo Selo – village of Poljance – tt /trig. point/ 723.

T a s k: In coordinated action with the 37th mtbr, 15th okbr /armoured brigade/ and two PJP /Special Police Unit/ companies, attack the following axis: village of Poljance – village of Grudić Mahala – Pajrom Morina, village of Ciganske Kuće – village of Doševac – village of Štutica – village of Poluža, crush and destroy the ŠTS

in the following sector: village of Novo Selo, village of Kruševac, Novo Poljance, village of Doševac, village of Mućol and in the immediate task reach the following line: k. /elevation/ 616 – village of Štutica – village of Doševac – k. 654.

Use part of the forces to join up with the 15th okbr, destroy the remaining fractions of the ŠTS, ensure viability of the Srbica - Glogovac road and combat control of the territory. Further goal is to prevent incursion and withdrawal of the ŠTS from the sector of Donja Drenica into the sector of Western Drenica.

KM /Command Post/ in the sector: Srbica.

5.2. 37th mtbr - from the line reached introduce forces into the following l/p /camp ground/: village of Ripa – village of Krasalić, and continue to attack from there.

T a s k: in coordinated action with the 125th mtbr and 15th okbr and two PJP companies, attack on the following axis: village of Krasalić – village of Kozica – village of Likošane, crush and destroy the ŠTS in the following sector: village of Kozica, village of Haljitović, village of Dubrava and in the immediate task reach the following line: village of Dubrava – village of Haljitović – tt 712, continue to attack and in the next task gain control of the following line: Kungulare (tt 679) – village of Likošane.

Further goal is to join up with the 15th okbr, destroy the remaining fractions of the ŠTS and ensure combat control of the territory.

KM in the sector: village of Krasalić.

5.3. 15th okbr (BG-1 and 2):

Continue to attack from the following line reached: Goluša – village of Staro Čikatovo – village of Novo Čikatovo.

T a s k: in coordinated action with the 37th mtbr and 125th mtbr and three PJP companies, attack on the following axis: Goluša – village of Godance – village of Likošane, village of Staro Čikatovo – village of Krasalić – village of Likošane and village of Novo Čikatovo – village of Globare – village of Vrbovac, crush and destroy the ŠTS in the following sector: village of Godance, village of Kurumelj, village of Krasalić, village of Novo Čikatovo, village of Globare and village of Cakić Mahala, and in the immediate task reach the following line: village of Bandići – village of Makreš - village of Trstenik.

Continue the attack and in the next task gain control of the following line: Gradica – village of Likošane – village of Vrbovac.

Use part of the forces to join up with the 37th mtbr and 125th mtbr, destroy the remaining dispersed fractions of the ŠTS and ensure viability of the roads and combat control of the territory.

Further goal is to prevent incursion and withdrawal of the ŠTS from the sector of Donja Drenica into the sector of Čičavica.

KM in the sector: village of Staro Čikatovo.

6. – INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT:

Intelligence support is to be focused on direct reconnaissance of strength, composition and deployment of DTS /sabotage and terrorist forces/ on the axes of attack.

Devote special attention to preventing loss of information and documents and protecting transfer of orders through the communications equipment.

7. – SECURITY SUPPORT:

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During task implementation impose the measures ordered to protect troops and SRT /combat hardware/. Special measures must be taken to prevent losses caused by booby traps and when fire is opened during blockade of ŠTS in populated areas.

8. – COMBAT SECURITY:

While attacks are carried out, suitably deploy troops to protect your unit from sudden terrorist attacks and devote full attention to protection of the wings and flanks.

During attack support must be focused on protection of combat vehicles from close-range DTS attacks, particularly in populated and wooded areas.

9. – MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT:

During preparation for task implementation, ensure motivation and readiness of troops for task implementation through direct moral and psychological preparation in all units.

Stress the need for correct treatment of loyal civilian population, particularly in refugee camps and regarding citizens' property. The media is to be treated in the spirit of the orders issued. Fire must be opened at the facilities from which the ŠTS are attacking. While combat operations are carried out, ban entering of houses and other facilities in the field.

10. – LOGISTICS SUPPORT:

Together with reinforcement units, the PoOB /Logistics Support/ will regulate the commands of the units used with their own forces and equipment /as printed/.

The following consumption is approved for task implementation:

- 2 b/k /combat sets/ of ammunition for infantry weapons and 1 b/k for other weapons
- 0.5 b/k of fuel for all m/v /motor vehicles/

Repair of heavily damaged TMS /Materiel and Technical Equipment/ is to be carried out by the unit's own forces and equipment, relying on the 202nd PoB /Logistics Base/.

Provision of care for the wounded is to be carried out by the unit's own forces and equipment, and the medical corps helicopter is to be engaged for the seriously wounded by request through the OC /Operations Centre/ of the PrK /Priština Corps/ Command.

Liquid food must be provided for the troops, and combined food during combat operations. Water is to be supplied from tested sources. Ban the use of water from local sources in the area where b/d /combat operations/ are carried out.

Organise PPZ /fire prevention/ in all units in deployment sectors and sectors where b/d are carried out by organising observation and reporting on fires. To put out small fires, use establishment equipment and troops assigned and trained for it.

Sectors of large fire are to be blocked and secured, and when b/d are completed, engage MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ fire fighting units to start bringing them under control.

After questioning, persons that have been brought into custody are to be turned over to the MUP organs for further processing.

Weapons seized and found, ammunition and other combat hardware are to be collected in unit deployment sectors, and then turned over to the 202nd PoB organs. Watch out for planted booby traps during collection of hardware and equipment that was left behind and found.

11. – COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS:

PrK KM in peacetime location.

Maintain communications with the PrK Command and subordinate units according to the existing communications documents, making sure that general KZ /cryptographic data protection/ documents are used.

Readiness of communications at 0500 hours on 23 March 1999

Signals: according to the signals table.

12. – Reports must be delivered as follows:

- a) Regular reports: - on readiness to carry out attack
 - daily reports by 1800 hrs with the situation at 1700 hrs
 - upon completion of task
- b) Interim reports: - as needed

13. – Coordinated action with MUP forces regarding preparation to carry out combat operations must be organised before the start of combat operations and while they are carried out.

The Joint Command for KiM from the Priština sector shall command and control all forces while combat operations are carried out.

JOINT COMMAND FOR KiM

DRAFT TRANSLATION

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/stamped at top right corner of each page:/

Yugoslav Army
Military History Institute
Military Archive
Belgrade

Joint Command for KiM /Kosovo and Metohija/ MILITARY SECRET

Strictly confidential no. 455-73

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

24 March 1999

Copy no. _____

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ORDER

**to provide support to MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ forces in defeating and
destroying ŠTS /Šiptar /Albanian/ Terrorist Forces/ in the Drenica sector**

Map – 1:50,000, Sections Kosovska Mitrovica 1, 2, 3, and 4

1. THE ENEMY:

In the past 15-20 days, the ŠTS have stepped up combat activities and attacks on units of the VJ /Yugoslav Army/ and MUP members, and have intensified DT /sabotage-terrorist/ operations in urban areas. The main ŠTS strongholds are in the sectors of: Kladernica village, Lauša village, Rezalija village, Likovac village, Plužina village, Donje Obrinje village, Gornje Obrinje village, and Turićevac.

The ŠTS have established the “Drenica” Operations Zone, comprising three brigades (with a strength of around 1,500 terrorists):

- KLA 114th Brigade, around 250 terrorists in the sector of Likovac village;
- KLA 140th Brigade, around 250 terrorists, KM /command post/ in the sector of Gradica village;
- KLA 112th Brigade, around 200 terrorists, KM in the sector of Lauša village.

The probable objective of the ŠTS is to take military, economic and socially-owned facilities, to expand and integrate the OZ /Operations Zone/ into a single entity, to take control of the main roads, and to bring about favourable conditions for controlling territory.

The ŠTS are armed with automatic rifles, PMs /light machine-guns/, machine-guns, PO /anti-tank/ weapons (*Osa*, *Zolja*, and *Armbrust*), and 60-mm and 82-mm MB /mortar/ support weapons.

We can expect fire from 60-mm and 82-mm MBs from the following sectors: Lauša village, Kladernica village, Rezala village, Likovac village, and Gornje Obrinje village.

Along the roads, we can expect ambushes and sudden raids on supply columns and individual vehicles of the VJ and the MUP.

In the deployment areas, fortification features are being constructed for firing and defence, and obstacles are being created in the form of mine clusters on the road sections at the entry and exit points of inhabited places. In inhabited areas they have set booby traps in schools, houses, and shops.

It is expected that the ŠTS will offer strong resistance on the attack axes of the VJ and the MUP, but with the loss of positions and losses in manpower the resistance will weaken until positions and features are abandoned.

2. TASK OF THE Pr /Priština/ CORPS:

The Priština Corps with reinforcements and the armed non-Šiptar population in KiM shall support MUP forces in defeating and destroying the ŠTS in the zone of responsibility.

T a s k : Support the MUP forces in the seal-off, defeat and destruction of the ŠTS in the Drenica sector. At the same time secure the DG /state border/ and prevent the infiltration of ŠTS by closing off routes from the Republic of Albania and the

Republic of Macedonia, and secure military facilities, roads, and exercise combat control over the territory. Use some of the forces to prevent the ŠTS from withdrawing from the Drenica sector and slipping through to the sectors of Mališevo and Baranski Lug.

KM in the sector of the PrK /Priština Corps/ Command building, Priština.

3. NEIGHBOURS :

3.1. By engaging forces in its home zone, the NK /Niš Corps/ shall secure the DG /state border/ with the Republic of Macedonia, shall prevent the infiltration of ŠTS from the Pčinja District into the PrK zone, and shall prevent the ŠTS from slipping through from KiM to the Pčinja District. They shall defeat and destroy the ŠTS in the Pčinja District, and be ready to engage in combined action with the PrK.

3.2. The 2/203rd mabr /2nd Battalion of the 203rd Mixed Artillery Brigade/ shall form AAG-3 /Army Artillery Group 3/. Task: support PrK forces from the sector of Krušumlijska Banja if requested.

4. DECISION :

I have decided: To support MUP forces in the attack by engaging g/s /main forces/ on the following axes: Vitak village – Kladernica village – Broćna; Gornja Klina village – Lauša village – Turićevac; and Trstenik village – Likovac village – Donje Obrinje village; and p/s /auxiliary forces/ on the axis of Mlečane village – Murga village – Donje Obrinje village, and sealing off the line of Belica – Jošanica – Sićevo village – Cerovik village – Negrovac village – Kosmač, and inserting some of the forces into the general sector of Likovac village.

Objective: Seal off the ŠTS in the general sector of Kladernica village, Rakitnica village, Rezala village, Lauša village, Likovac village, Plužina village, Gornje Obrinje village and Donje Obrinje village, Makrmalj village, Kosmač, Ovčarevo village, and Turićevac village.

From a flexible attack position, defeat and destroy the ŠTS on the attack axes.

Use some of the forces to prevent the ŠTS from retreating from the Drenica area and slipping through to the area of Mališevo and Baranksi Lug.

Thereafter, keep roads passable and exert combat control over the territory.

The operation shall last two to three days.

Combat disposition:

- Forces for defeating and destroying ŠTS
- Forces for seal-off
- Forces for insertion
- Forces for support
- Forces for securing roads and controlling territory
- Forces for providing security of b/d /combat operations/
- Forces for command and communications.

To be in a state of readiness: to defeat and destroy ŠTS at 0500 hours on 26 March 1999.

5. TASKS FOR UNITS:

5.1. 37th mtbr /Motorised Brigade/ (BG-37 /Combat Group 37/) and TG-37 /Tactical Group 37/: To be brought in from the deployment sector on 25 March 1999 to the planned sector: Banja village, Rudnik village, Padalište village, and from the seal-off line: Belica village – Čitak village – Vitačko Brdo /hill/, supporting MUP forces in the attack.

T a s k : Support MUP forces in defeating and destroying the ŠTS on the axis of Rudnik village – Vitak village – Kladernica village – Voćnjak village – Broćna village; defeat and destroy the ŠTS in the sector of Leočina village – Kostre village –

Kladernica village; and as the first task emerge onto the line of Trnava village – Baljica village – Kladernica village.

Continue the attack, destroy any straggling ŠTS on the attack axes, and as the next task take control of the line of Čumursko Brdo – Oković village.

Use some of the forces to seal off the line of Velja Glava – Koleni Brdo (k /elevation/ 715) – Popova Glava (tt /trig point/ 747) – Baljica (tt 758), and prevent the ŠTS from retreating to the area of Baranski Lug.

Thereafter, keep roads passable and exert combat control over the territory.

KM in the sector of Rudnik village.

5.2. 125th mtbr (BG-125-1 and 6 and BG-252): From the seal-off line of Čubrelj village – Srbica village – Kruševac village, support the forces of the MUP and JSO /Special Operations Unit/ in the attack.

T a s k : Support MUP forces in defeating and destroying the ŠTS on the axes of Gornja Klina village – Lauša village – Turićevac village and Kruševac village – Rezala village – Donji Obilić village; defeat and destroy the ŠTS in the sector of Čubrelj village, Lauša village, Rezala village, and as the immediate task emerge onto the line of Rakitnica village – Gecaj Mahala – Delijaj Mahala.

Continue the attack, destroy any straggling parts of the ŠTS on the attack axes, and as the next task take control of the line of Gornji Obilić village – Ljutan – Donji Obilić village.

Use some of the forces (BG-125-6) to seal off the line of Sićevo village – Vranići village – Goleš (tt 572) and prevent the withdrawal of the ŠTS to the Mališevo sector.

Thereafter, keep the main roads passable and exert combat control over the territory.

KM in the sector of Srbica.

5.3. 15th okbr /Armoured Brigade/ (BG-15-1 and 2): From the seal-off line of Poluža village – Makrmalj village – Likovac village – Tica village, and Globare village – Kukić Mahala /several words illegible/ ŠTS in the sector of /several words illegible/ Banjica village, and as the immediate task emerge onto the line of Makrmalj village – Beženić village – Bok Trstenički – Domanek village – Krajkovo village.

Continue the attack, destroy any straggling parts of the ŠTS on the attack axes, and as the next task take control of the line of Tica village – Plužina village – Donje Obrinje village and Trdevac village.

Use some of the forces to seal off the line of Kosmač – Domanek village.

Thereafter, keep the main roads passable and exert combat control over the territory.

KM in the sector of Globare village.

5.4. 243rd mbr /Mechanised Brigade/ (BG-243-2): To be brought in from the deployment sector on 25 March 1999 to the planned sector in Lapušnik village and from the seal-off line of Orlate village – Balince village – Mlečane village, supporting MUP forces in the attack.

T a s k : Support MUP forces in defeating and destroying the ŠTS on the axes of Mlečane village – Murga village – Donje Obrinje village and Orlate village – Negrovce village – Vučak village; defeat and destroy the ŠTS in the sector of Pločice, Negrovce village and Golubovac village, and as the immediate task emerge onto the line of Vučak village – Golubovac village – Cerovik.

Continue the attack, destroy any straggling parts of the ŠTS on the attack axes, and as the next task take control of the line of Donje Obrinje village – Trdevac village.

Use some of the forces to seal off the line of Gradina – Bahremović Mahala and prevent the withdrawal of the ŠTS from Donja Drenica to Gornja Drenica.

Thereafter, keep the main roads passable and exert combat control over the territory.

KM in the sector of Mlečane village.

5.5. TG-252: To be brought in from the deployment sector on 25 March 1999 to the planned sector in Pograđe village and Stepenice village and from the seal-off line of Cerovik village – Zabrđe village – Dobri Dol village and Jošanica village – Bajrak, supporting MUP forces in the attack.

T a s k : Support MUP forces in defeating and destroying the ŠTS in the sector of Cerovik village, Dobra Voda village, Broćna village and Voćnjak village, and as the immediate task emerge onto the line of Petrovica – Dobra Voda – tt 588 – Mališgan – Beganović village – Voćnjak village.

Destroy any straggling ŠTS, and thereafter keep the main roads passable and exert combat control over the territory.

KM in the sector of Grabac village.

6. INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT:

Focus intelligence support on direct reconnaissance of the strength, composition, and disposition of the DTS /sabotage-terrorist forces/ on the attack axes.

Pay particular attention to the protection of information and documents against loss, and the protection and conveyance of orders over communications system.

7. SECURITY SUPPORT:

While carrying out the task, implement the measures ordered for the protection of personnel and SRT /combat hardware/. Take particular measures to prevent casualties caused by booby traps and when opening fire while sealing off the ŠTS in inhabited areas.

8. COMBAT SECURITY:

While conducting the attack, use a suitable deployment to provide security against surprise terrorist operations, and pay full attention to protecting the wings and flanks.

During the attack, focus security on the protection of combat vehicles against the actions of the ŠTS from close range, particularly in inhabited areas and wooded terrain.

9. MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT:

In all units, as part of the preparations for the task, conduct direct moral and psychological preparations to ensure the motivation and readiness of the men.

Demonstrate the required proper behaviour towards the loyal civilian population, and particularly towards refugees and the property of civilians. With representatives of the media, act in accordance with the orders issued. Open fire on features from which the ŠTS fire. During combat operations forbid entry into houses and other buildings in the field.

10. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT:

PoOb /Logistical Support/ with reinforcement units shall be regulated by the commands of the units engaged, using their own forces and resources.

For conducting the task, the following levels of consumption are permitted:

- two b/k /combat sets/ of ammunition for infantry weapons, and one b/k for other weapons
- 0.5 p/r /tankful/ of fuel for all m/v /motor vehicles/

Repair any seriously damaged TMS /materiel and technical equipment/ with your own forces and resources, and by obtaining support from the 202nd PoB /Logistics Base/.

Care for the wounded with your own forces and resources, and if there any seriously wounded, engage an air ambulance by requesting it through the OC /Operations Centre/ of the PrK Command.

Provide the personnel with combined rations. Provide water from trusted sources. Ban the use of water from local sources in the area where combat operations are being conducted.

In all units organise PPZ /fire prevention/ in the deployment sectors and combat sectors, by organising fire observation and reporting. Engage establishment resources and men for fighting small fires.

Seal off and secure any areas affected by large fires, and after the completion of combat operations bring them under control by engaging MUP fire-fighting units.

After questioning any persons taken into custody, hand them over to the MUP organs for further processing.

Any weapons, ammunition or other combat equipment seized or found should be collected in the deployment sectors and then handed over to /?organs/ of the 202nd PoB. Be on the lookout for booby traps when collecting abandoned or found combat equipment.

11. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The PrK KM shall be in the building of its peacetime location.

Maintain communications with the PrK Command and subordinate units as per the existing communications documents, and without fail use the general KZ /cryptographic data protection/ documents.

Communications to be ready at 0400 hours on 26 March 1999.

Signals: as per the signals table.

12. Send reports:

- a) Regular reports
 - on readiness to conduct the attack
 - daily by 1800 hours, on the situation at 1700 hours
 - after completion of the task
- b) Interim reports
 - as necessary

13. Organise coordinated action with MUP forces concerning preparations for combat operations before the start and during the combat operations.

The Joint Command for KiM shall command and direct all forces during combat operations from the Priština sector.

JOINT COMMAND FOR KiM

37th mtbr /Motorised Brigade/ COMMAND

Banja village KM /Command Post/

Strictly confidential number 11-14

27 March 1999

Regular combat report

To: PRIŠTINA CORPS /PrK/ COMMAND

2nd ARMY and UK /Užice Corps/ COMMANDS, for information

2. Electronic operations

No electronic operations were conducted against the unit while it was carrying out its scheduled activities.

4. Situation in the territory

The ŠTS /Šiptar /Albanian/ terrorist forces/ opened fire using AP /automatic rifles/, PM /machine-guns/ and SnPAP /?semi-automatic sniper rifles/ in the entire sector of operations, mostly from the Popova Glava, Izbica and Kaluderica sectors, while /the unit/ was carrying out its scheduled activities.

5. Activities and situation in the unit

5.1. Activities

By 1500 hours, while carrying out its activities, the unit reached the tt /trig. point/ 628-tt715-tt706-tt692 line.

5.2. Situation

Situation in the unit is stable and unchanged.

The state of morale in the units is very good and all unit members have demonstrated readiness to fight ŠTS and defend their homeland.

The security situation is stable and unchanged.

6. Logistics support.

The level of logistics support is sufficient to ensure full b/g /combat readiness/.

8. Main tasks for next day

Continue with the planned activities in line with the decision to smash and destroy ŠTS in the Drenica sector.

9. Requests

Considering that the 37th mtbr completed mobilization, we hereby request that stand-by forces be linked up with mobilized units.

/handwritten: /?for/

C O M M A N D E R

Lieutenant Colonel

Ljubiša DIKOVIĆ

/handwritten: for/ /signed/

RECEIVED:	27 March	1615	/signed/
	(day and month)	(hour and minute)	(s i g n a t u r e)
(code name) (telegram no.) (group no.)	(urgency)	(processing method)	(communications station no.)
PROCESSED:	27 March	1635	/signed/
	(day and month)	(hour and minute)	(s i g n a t u r e)
DELIVERED:			
	(day and month)	(hour and minute)	(s i g n a t u r e)

DRAFT TRANSLATION

Transcript_Date_11.12.2007 - testimony of Ljubisa Dikovic

18 Q. I'd like to follow-up with that. Did you come across any MUP who
19 actually did assist civilians or did guide them out?

20 A. I did not come across any specific example. I can't tell you of a
21 specific example where a MUP member said, Go this way. It was in my area,
22 along my axis, we stopped our firing and took people out. I think in
23 front of me there was some -- or before me there was some MUP members.

24 Q. This is in the general area of Izbica; is that correct?

25 A. Could you repeat that? I didn't understand the interpretation.

1 Q. Is this in the general area of Izbica?

2 A. Yes, yes. That was in the general area of Izbica. I don't know
3 what you mean when you say "the general area," but as far as I remember it
4 was actually in Izbica itself.

5 Q. And did you take part of the investigation by the VJ when 101
6 bodies were found in and near Izbica in graves later on?

7 A. No, no, I did not conduct any investigation nor am I authorised to
8 do so, to engage in any investigation or investigative activities, no, I'm
9 not authorised to do that and I did not conduct an investigation, no.

10 Q. So although your unit was directly involved in that area, no one
11 from the VJ ever called upon you to answer for any of those operations or
12 to provide any information when mass graves were found?

13 A. Well, I don't know which mass graves you actually mean. At the
14 time that I was there I did not come across any mass graves, no mass
15 graves at all. Let me repeat that. I did not come across any mass graves
16 in that area --

17 Q. [Previous translation continues]...

18 A. -- and in the village of Izbica, I did not personally enter that
19 village myself.

procedures and actions for the clearing of the terrain. In order to establish the necessary coordination of all responsible and authorities in charge engaged in the duties of clearing (representatives of VJ units, MUP, court and military court authorities) a discussion was organised and held by the Priština Corps Command on 1 May 1999, when the tasks of all authorities in the territory of KM were specified. By the passing of a new Instruction for the clearing of the terrain, ŠVK In/ternal/ no. 1586-2 of 15 May 1999, new orders were issued in the spirit of the new Instruction.

In the course of 1999, the VJ units deployed in the territory of KM carried out a clearing in 54 locations within their zones of responsibility. 172 human corpses were found (the exhumed ones are shown separately, see table no. 2). The identification, recording, transport and burial were done mainly by the authorities in cooperation with the families of the fallen. In all cases of suspected murder, the investigative and court authorities in charge instituted proceedings.

(table 1)

1

The clearing of the battleground of human bodies

Year	Wounded	Treated	Buried		Total	
			Individually	In a group	Identified	Unidentif.
						27
1998			27		78	130
1999			172	36	78	157
TOTAL			199	36		

1.1 Exhumation and forensic expert opinion

In 1999, the VJ unit found and discovered several mass graves in the territory of KM. At the request of military court and civilian court authorities, an exhumation was conducted and a forensic team from the VMA and VB Niš carried out a forensic analysis (Table 2). Three teams which stayed in the territory of KM in the period between April and June 1999, were involved in the implementation of investigative duties within the context of forensic tasks.

2

Site	Analysed forensically	Identified	Remark
the village of Slovinje	16	16	Exhumed
the village of Mali Almaš	20	20	Exhumed
the village of Ljubenić	14	—	Exhumed
the village of Malo Ribare	25	—	Exhumed
the village of Izbica	101	—	Exhumed
the village of Gornja Klina	6	—	Exhumed
the village of Gornja Klina	6	—	Found outside the grave
the village of Čikatovo	12	—	Found outside the grave
TOTAL	200	36	

/various handwritten number and letters; see original text/

COMMAND, 37th mtbr /motorized brigade/
Strictly Confidential No. 300-1
1 May 1999

/stamp: file permanently/
MILITARY SECRET
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Copy No.

URGENT

Report on the implementation
of *KAMENICA* operation

TO THE COMMAND OF THE PRISTINA CORPS /PrK/

The operation to break up and destroy ŠTS /Šiptar /Albanian/ terrorist forces/ within the brigade z/o /area of responsibility/ code-named *KAMENICA* was carried out on 30 April 1999, from 0600 hours to 1800 hours. The operation covered the area within the brigade z/o between Mount Čičavica and the Srbica-Glogovac communication line including the following features: Kamenica-Vrbovac Hill-Gurina-Kraljica-Doševac Hill and the villages of Gladno Selo, Doševac, Štutica and Vrbovac and surrounding hamlets.

The operation was planned by the Brigade Command and carried out by parts of units from the brigade's second b/e /combat echelon/. The exemplary efforts by troops and officers in the course of the operation resulted in a high level of success in the breaking up and destruction of ŠTS. According to the information currently available, 148 members of ŠTS were liquidated, while 172 persons were captured and will be duly processed by the OB VJ /Yugoslav Army security organs/ and the MUP SDB /Ministry of the Interior State Security Service/. We have also seized some weapons, equipment and documents.

Special events and proposals of measures will be included in a separate report, but what emerged as the most pressing problem was the brigade's inadequate supply of hand-held *Motorola* radios and we request again that you resupply us with them.

It is also necessary to send a team to assist in cleaning up the battlefield.

In this action the unit had 1 dead and 1 wounded soldier.

BBO/BD

Prepared in single copy,
one copy made and forwarded to:
- PrK Command
- Files

/handwritten: for/ COMMANDER
Colonel
Ljubiša DIKOVIĆ
/signed and stamped/

/stamp: COMMAND, PRIŠTINA COPRS/

/handwritten:/ 93

COMMAND of the 37th mtbr /Motorised Brigade/

Strictly confidential no. 326-2

4 May 1999

/illegible stamp/

Very URGENT

To: Commander of the PrK /Priština Corps/

Ref: Your telegram strictly confidential no. 455-205 of 2 May 1999, in connection with assignment of accommodation to civilians in the zone of responsibility of the brigade. We hereby send you the following information:

1. All civilians in the zone of responsibility of the brigade have been assigned accommodation in suitable buildings and nobody is in the open.

2. In the zone of responsibility of the brigade, civilians have been put under the control of units, people have been registered and village commanders report twice a day to battalion commanders and inform them about any changes to the number of people.

They are treated humanely.

3. With organs of civilian authorities in Srbica, people have been registered. A total of 4,981 civilians are in Srbica, of whom 380 are fit for military service and have been singled out and kept under guard in the O[elementary school/.

4. Organs of civilian authorities in Glogovac do not function. It is estimated that about 7,500 civilians are currently there, and with neighbouring villages the number of civilians is about 15,000.

I informed you about the situation in Glogovac in the telegram of 3 May 1999. After the attack of NATO forces on *Feroniki* and neighbouring villages, the civilian population is asking for mass departure from Glogovac, and they are leaving every day.

- There are 291 civilians (women, children and the elderly) in Globare village, 230 in Jirez, 850 in Zabelj village, 50 in Dvoran Mahala, 150 in [utica village and about 500 in ^ikatovo village.

5. At present we have no sectors where we can receive any new temporarily displaced persons, because more than 23,000 civilians are currently in the zone of responsibility of the brigade.

Food reserves for all civilians are running out and we are asking you to help us as soon as possible to resolve the request from the telegram that we sent you on 3 May 1999.

COMMANDER

Colonel

Ljubi{a DIKOVI

/signed and stamped/

Translation

0854-4DS

/Handwritten numbers: see original/

Command of the 37th mtbr /Motorised Brigade/

Strictly confidential no. 446-2 /Handwritten: *keep*

13 May 1999

permanently

MILITARY SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

Report on the situation
in Glogovac

To the Command of the PrK /Priština Corps/,
the Commander, personally

On 12 May 1999, a representative of the Command of the 37th mtbr organised and held a meeting with the Chief of the Glogovac MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ regarding a census of the civilian population in Glogovac Municipality, a meeting with representatives of the civilian population of Novo Čikatovo village, and a meeting with the vice-president and secretary of the Glogovac SO /Municipal Assembly/.

The following conclusions were drawn based on these contacts:

- 1.- The MUP of Glogovac Municipality initiated a census of the population, which, it was assessed should be completed this week.
- 2.- A Registration and Deregistration Service was formed and will begin working on 17 May 1999.
- 3.- The meeting in Novo Čikatovo village (attended by six representatives of the Albanians, the Chief of the MUP and a representative of Brigade Command) was held in the *Majka Tereza* premises; the following was decided:
 - a) the political, security and economic situation from the start of the aggression to this day was presented.
 - b) The healthcare problem (the local doctor has fled, treatment is being provided by a military doctor).
 - c) There is a shortage of food (flour, cooking oil, etc.) and hygiene products, promises were made that humanitarian aid would arrive soon.
 - d) There is no electricity or running water.
 - e) Information was given that supposedly members of the VJ /Yugoslav Army/ supposedly killed nine Albanians before our Brigade arrived. We will look into this.
 - f) There were 360 households in Novo Čikatovo village before the start of the NATO aggression, another 120 households arrived from the general district so that there were some 3,100 inhabitants. However, after a number left for the FYR Macedonia and their previous places of residence, there are now 2,000 people in the village.
 - g) Some v/o /military conscripts/ attempted to loot (jewellery and money), to which we reacted and returned the looted items and money earning the trust and approval of the locals for the members of the Brigade, promising to continue cooperation in the future.
- 4.- At a meeting with the president and secretary of the Glogovac SO, many issues that need to be resolved in the near future were raised:
 - a) Providing electricity, water, telephone services and food.
 - b) A building for the work of the medical organ (doctor).
 - c) Clearing up the town of Glogovac.
 - d) Re-establish the work of the assembly organs of government.
 - e) A meeting was scheduled with the inhabitants of Strubolovo village.

f) A meeting was scheduled with Mr ANDRIĆ, President of the Provincial Staff for Humanitarian Affairs.

VV/SS

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C O M M A N D E R
C o l o n e l
Ljubiša DIKOVIĆ
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