

W	FILE	SUBJ.
	DATE	SUB-CAT.
10/6P		

WINTER PREPARATIONS FOR AA UNIT DETAILED

[Article by Tung Thien; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 21 October 1968, p 2]

The battleground of anti-aircraft unit #5 has been set up in a high fairly drafty place. In this exposed terrain, the party committees and unit commander concerned themselves very early with combating the cold and protecting the health of the cadres and soldiers defeating the American aggressors this winter. Political commissar Pham Khac Du organized discussions with the new soldiers about achievements of the unit in defeating both the Americans and nature last year, and encouraged them to intensify activities defending against and combating cold this year. The soldiers were very proud of the achievements of their unit. Last winter, though the mobile unit fought in a region near the mountain forests, and though the weather was changeable and piercing cold, they still assured that not one of the members was stricken by the cold. In an environment far from civilization, without hay, the soldiers have overcome this by taking grass and dried leaves to make mattresses. Not having barrels to hold water for bathing, the soldiers have taken shell casing cases, sealed them with cassava paint, and used them instead. On days when they were on the move fighting the enemy, the unit sections brought sufficient materials to fight the cold, such as closed food and water containers, mattresses, etc., and strictly enforced winter disease prevention systems. Therefore, the unit achieved the highest percentage of healthy soldiers throughout the detachment, and was recognized as the outstanding unit in health protection.

Drawing experience from leadership of activities defending against and fighting the cold in 1967, unit #5 has tensely made preparations to fight the cold this year. The cadres, talking and working with the soldiers, have guided and inspected the soldiers in their expansion of all essential activities to defeat the "aggressor cold."

When on the move, the pieces of the sections of the units were studied and reoriented according to the sun and warmth. The unit organized an additional inventory of blankets, mosquito nets, winter jackets, and all

cold-fighting equipment of the soldiers, while they discovered, in time, shortages and losses due to combat, in order to ask for supplementary allocations and to set up a concrete mutual aid plan. Deputy commander Nguyen Van Tu directly made advance connections with the local areas to tightly grasp the sources of supply of hay, bamboo, and thin bamboo, and to have a complete distribution plan for each section. The health training program raising the combat strength of the troops was minutely studied by unit commander Hoang Thanh Ha, and he arranged a suitable training plan. A small number of soldiers who were not healthy or had diseases which often recur in winter were minutely classified by the unit which had measures to build up their health. Medic Dong Van Thanh prepared sufficient materials for prevention of wintertime disease in the unit, such as rubbing oil, mouth bands, ginger candy, bathing water heating barrels, and so on. Thanh, along with the troop nourishment cell, also researched and was successful in building a mobile stove to assure regular sufficient hot, drinking water for the troops on the battlefield. The troop nourishment squad commander Nguyen Van Ty, was farsighted enough to take precautions months in advance, and has prepared essential materials to serve the nutritional needs of the unit for this winter. Ty, along with the troop nourishment soldiers requested sawdust and husks, brought them back and stuffed them into wooden barrels to make food containers for the sections. The troop nourishment cell formulated a very concrete plan aimed at serving the unit well under any combat condition. The troops affirmed their determination: no matter how tense and fierce the combat, no matter how cold the winter wind, to be determined to "assure hot food and hot soup for the unit to eat their fill and fight victoriously." The entire cell raised 8 fat pigs (each one weighing over 50 kilograms) and tens of chickens, ducks, and geese for use as reserve food for the troops in the winter.

In this year's disease prevention and health protection plan, the party committees and cadres of unit #5 placed special concern on the new soldiers. They drew experience from last year that when the cold winds returned, the cadres did not emphasize reminding and tight inspection, and therefore a number of soldiers refused to wear winter jackets. This year the cadres in the unit have taken responsibility to thoroughly look after and care for the health of the troops, and not allow one of them to be stricken by the cold.

Due to the concern of the party committees which discussed and had a suitable leadership plan, the cadres emphasized assuming responsibility to organize enforcement; and the preparatory activities of unit #5 for combating the cold achieved good initial results. With a spirit of fighting the "aggressor cold" as fighting the American aggressors, unit #5 will surely maintain and expand its role as the leading banner in disease prevention and health protection of the anti-aircraft detachment, complete their mission in an outstanding manner, and make brilliant achievements this winter.

11,519
CSO: 3520-S