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Military Interpreter

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War is a terrible and difficult test for every country. To protect our homeland, we need professional military personnel. Military interpreters are among them.

A military interpreter is a staff officer, a specialist in writing, interpretation and simultaneous interpretation, connected with various aspects of military service.

Historical background

The first translators in Belarus appeared in the time of the Polotsk Principality. They served as royal servants and were needed to communicate with other princes, as well as with merchants.

The first military interpreters appeared during the reign of Peter I. At that time special importance was given to the international military influence of Russia, so all officers must be taught the basics of a foreign language. Special training courses were set up for this purpose.

In the next century, officers were trained at the School of Translators at the Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1885). After graduation, all of them were sent to the border areas of the Russian Empire. In 1899, due to growing demand, an additional branch of the school was opened in the city of Vladivostok.

The school trained specialists who spoke English, German, French, Japanese, Chinese or Korean. The high level of knowledge was also facilitated by the home education system adopted in the Russian Empire at that time, which laid

the emphasis on the learning foreign languages. Thanks to this approach, Russian officers could interrogate prisoners on their own during the First World War.

The revolution of 1917 changed the situation drastically. People who could speak foreign languages were in great demand. So, a new specialty - the military interpreter - was created on the 21 of May, 1929. The need for such specialists became even greater in 1940, before the forthcoming war, and the Military Institute of Foreign Languages was opened.

During the Second World War, the institute managed to train more than 5,000 specialists. They interrogated prisoners at the headquarters and, along with other military personnel, participated in offensive operations. At the end of the war, the profession remained in demand, and the training program was improved every year. Military interpreters today take part in all the conflicts in which Russia participates and negotiate under the most difficult conditions [1].

Military interpreters in Belarus

To become a military interpreter in the Belarusian Army today is necessary to study the following subjects: "linguistics and intercultural communication", "acquisition and processing of foreign military information", "analysis of foreign military information", etc. Today the following universities train military interpreters: Belarusian State University, Minsk State Linguistic University, Gomel State University, and etc. [2].

A military interpreter must combine professional knowledge and practical skills to perform his official duties. He must also know military affairs in order to be able to work in any branch of the Armed Forces and to translate any military document.

Another distinctive feature of interpreter's work is constant business trips. All tasks are performed by order of the command. Once the work is complete, the interpreter must

report about it and begin the implementation of a new one. This transition is inevitably associated with a change of location.

The last peculiarity of the profession is regular retraining in training centers for the period from 3 to 12 months. Such training is also one of the obligatory tasks given by the command [3].

It should also be mentioned about such useful skills of any interpreter as: the ability to encrypt and encode data, to analyze quickly the contents of a long speech, to code all the information with different symbols (or abbreviations) and easily reproduce it when necessary. All interpreters have usually their own symbols which they develop over the years.

Whatever the situation in the country is, people's safety will always come first. Military interpreters have always stood on the guard of our security. The skills and knowledge of interpreters all enable them to serve the Nation in the future, as they have done in the past.

References:

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