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PAVN UNIT INSTRUCTIONS ON OPERATING IN CAMBODIA

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HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

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Document No. 6

Guidance for the Armed Action Unit operating, in "K" ((possibly Cambodia.))

This document consists of five parts:

- I. Organization, nature, and missions of Task "K" Armed Action Unit.
- II. Propaganda content
- III. Guidance for the organization of the National Reunification Front Committee (FUNK) at village and hamlet level.
- IV. Guidance for organizing armed forces in local areas (guerrillas and liberation militia).
- V. Leadership of Task "K" Armed Action Unit.

I. ORGANIZATION, NATURE, AND MISSIONS OF TASK "K" ARMED ACTION UNIT:

A. Organization:

In order to meet the urgent requirements of the Revolution in the present situation and to take advantage of favorable opportunities, all B's ((possibly regiments)), agencies, and units equivalent to B ((possibly meaning regimental level)) located in border areas, are required to organize an "armed action unit" ((for each regimental sized unit)) to carry out propaganda activities among the K ((Khmer)) people in order to assist our friendly nation ((possibly meaning Cambodia)) in the establishment of a revolutionary government, the development of a liberation army to liberate K ((possibly Cambodia)), and the consolidation of liberated areas.

According to the mission requirements of each area, the armed action units can be divided into types as follows:

1. The armed action unit which only operates in base areas as local troops or guerrillas to establish local authority, develop military and political forces in the local areas, and carry out combat activities to protect base areas and the people, etc....((sic))

2. The regular armed action unit which only conducts political propaganda activities as its main task.

This team will not operate in one area but will move to other areas after accomplishing its political task.

3. The armed action unit which only operates in key combat areas to support the troops' combat requirements.

4. The penetration armed action unit which had the responsibility of conducting deep thrusts into the enemy's areas of operation to conduct propaganda activities and develop revolutionary strength. The organization of the armed action units should depend upon the characteristics and activities of each unit so as to meet the requirements of the mission.

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Each armed action unit should consist of approximately 15 members as follows:

One commanding officer

One executive officer

One armed squad (or more than one squad)

One medic

One or two interpreters.

The strength of the armed action units which operate in the base areas can be larger according to their areas of operation.

The strength of the armed action units which operate in combat areas is similar to that of the regular unit. However, they must be adequately equipped and should always be ready for combat.

The penetration armed action units may be organized into companies. Cadre should have firm ideology and be capable of performing their tasks. If necessary, a battalion cadre can be assigned to command each of these companies.

Soldiers should also be selected from among outstanding personnel.

Upon arriving at an area of activity, each unit should be divided into elements. Each element can be approximately one platoon. The penetration armed action units should be sufficiently equipped with radios so that information can be regularly sent to the command post.

Each main force E ((regiment)) should also establish a number of armed action units to operate in combat areas. A specific plan should be drafted before, during, and after the attack according to the situation of their combat areas.

B. Characteristics of the armed action units:

The armed action unit is an armed organization which has the responsibility of carrying out the following missions:

a. Assisting the people to control and safeguard their livelihood. Strengthening revolutionary forces for the friendly units.

b. Taking charge of local troops and guerrillas to assist the local areas to establish revolutionary authorities, develop our armed forces to liberate K ((possibly Cambodia)), and together with the people to struggle against the enemy for the protection of the people, our base areas, our government, and revolutionary agencies.

c. Together with the people, intensifying farm production to ensure proper contribution of property and material resources to the Resistance.

d. Establishing safe communication corridors to provide security for cadre and troops in their movement.

e. Strengthening the solidarity between the people of the two nations in their struggle against the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen traitors.

C. General mission requirements of the "armed action units:"

Based on the nature of the above mentioned missions, the armed action units in the present situation have the following five great missions:

1. Regularly conduct propaganda activities to motivate the people in villages to understand the Revolution and distinguish friend from foe. Oppose the enemy's deceitful propaganda themes, stabilize the people's ideology, and develop revolutionary agents.

2. Organize the National Reunification Front Committee (FUNK) to replace the former government.

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3. Develop the armed forces (militia and guerrilla forces to liberate K ((possibly Cambodia)) and conduct military training courses for militia and guerrillas. They must assist the people and guerrillas in organizing a combat defensive system to counter enemy aircraft and artillery fire. The combat defense should be organized according to the situation of each area to successfully destroy the Puppet K ((possibly the present Cambodian Government)) and the US and RVN Puppets. In areas where there are both Cambodian and RVN troops, particular attention should be paid to guiding the people to counter the enemy's aircraft, artillery fire, armored vehicles, chemical toxics, and the relocation of people into his controlled areas.

4. Support the people and Cambodian armed forces to annihilate the enemy tyrants and intelligence personnel in order to maintain public order and security. Coordinate with the Cambodian people and armed forces to counter the enemy's sweep operations, oppression of the people, and conscription. They must actively protect the people's life and property and support them to step up farm production.

5. Support the people to carry out their tasks in all fields, especially public health and social activities. They must guide, motivate, and coordinate with the people to increase and protect farm production.

Above are the general mission requirements. However, a specific plan should be appropriately worked out according to the activities of each unit to meet the requirements of general task.

In addition, in the performance of these tasks, attention must be paid to having full information on individual targets in order to work

out appropriate themes for propaganda activities. The immediate task is to carefully investigate the farmers, rubber plantation workers, Vietnamese and Chinese residents, and people living in bordering areas of cities and province capitals.

II. CONTENTS OF THE PROPAGANDA TASK:

In the present situation, propaganda among Cambodian people must emphasize the following points:

1. Reveal the following schemes and reactionary characteristics of the 18 Mar 70 Coup d'Etat: The Lon Nol and Sirik Matak clique and henchment of the US imperialists overthrew Prince Sihanouk to seize power according to US orders. They barbarously oppressed the Khmer patriots who supported Prince Sihanouk and cooperated with the US and Puppets to save them from being heavily defeated in SVN.

Presently, the US and Puppets are conducting airstrikes and artillery shellings on Khmer villages along the border areas causing death and destruction among the Khmers. It is essential for us to cite some specific examples to sow hatred and indignation among the people.

The rightist Lon Nol and Matak clique are US henchmen. They betrayed Prince Sihanouk, the Chief of State, the patriotic Khmer people, and foiled the solidarity and friendship between the Cambodian and Vietnamese people in their fight against the US. They undermined the prestige of Cambodia throughout the world and turned peaceful Cambodia into a war zone. This crime is a national betrayal which must be ended. Therefore, we must quickly overthrow them to save the Khmer country and restore peace for Cambodia.

2. Conduct propaganda on the statements of Prince Sihanouk and that of the Khmer People's Revolutionary Party:

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The main point of the propaganda themes should be the five point announcement of Prince Sihanouk and the three points of the Khmer United Front.

The three specific missions of the National Reunification Front, headed by Prince Sihanouk, should also be disseminated to the Khmer people. They are as follows:

- 1) Overthrow the reactionaries Lon Nol and Matak.
- 2) Unify the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian people to defeat the US imperialist aggressors.
- 3) Establish a new ((Cambodia)) nation.

Appeal to the Khmer people to support the patriotic policy of Prince Sihanouk by voluntarily joining the National Reunification Front, organizing the armed forces, and tightly coordinating with the SVN Liberation Army to fight the US imperialists and their country-shelling henchmen despite the fact that they are Cambodian and Vietnamese people.

3. Explain and make the Khmer people understand the reason why we support Prince Sihanouk:

Presently, the enemy is deceiving the people by saying that we support Prince Sihanouk to occupy Cambodia later. We should take appropriate measures to oppose this propaganda theme. It is necessary for us to make the people understand that we support the patriotic policy of Prince Sihanouk because he was determined to attack the US imperialists. He closely coordinated with the Vietnamese people to fight the US and displayed his good will in giving full support to NVN. By supporting Sihanouk and attacking the US and their henchmen, we carry out our promise, strengthen the solidarity, and promote mutual support between the two countries. According to Buddhist doctrine we must help honest people and fight dishonest ones, even though we may have to sacrifice our lives.

Since the US imperialists' attempt to invade Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, their henchmen, whether they are Vietnamese, Khmer, or Laotian, are enemies of all three countries. The support of Sihanouk and an attack against the US and their henchmen, Lon Nol, Matak, and Cheng Heng, are not only advantageous for the Khmer people but also to the Vietnamese people's resistance. If SVN is liberated while the US and their henchmen are still occupying Cambodia, they will maintain it as a firm foothold to fight us in Vietnam. As a result, peace will not be restored in Indochina. If the US occupies South Vietnam, how can Cambodia and Laos enjoy peace? They will bribe their henchmen to spoil the chances for peace as they employ the Lon Nol clique. Because of the above facts, Prince Sihanouk and patriots of the Khmer country have in the past enthusiastically supported Vietnam to fight the US. Therefore, attacking the Thieu-Ky clique in SVN or Lon Nol, Matak, and Cheng Heng is also fighting the US which is advantageous to the people of both countries.

4. The propaganda should emphasize the significance of the establishment of the Front Committee which would replace the former government, and the build up of the armed forces (liberation militia) to protect the villages and hamlets. At the same time, motivate the youths to join the Khmer Liberation Army and the people to increase farm production and carry out self-sufficiency to fight the enemy and support the Khmer and Vietnamese Liberation Army.

5. Provide specific guidance for the people to counter the Lon Nol, Matak, and Cheng Heng reactionary government prescribed in Item 2 of Prince Sihanouk's declaration, which includes the following points:

To oppose conscription.

To oppose the collection of tax and different forms of exploitation.

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To counter the execution of orders, circulars, laws, and decisions made by the Lon Nol reactionary authorities.

Put the henchmen of Lon Nol, Matak, and Cheng Heng out of their present position as the people's leaders.

Oppose all forms of the enemy's oppression.

III. PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL REUNIFICATION FRONT COMMITTEE (FUNK) AT VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVELS.

A. Affirm the characteristics and missions of the Front Committee:

The Front Committee (FUNK) will be the new government to replace the former one. It will act as the commanding agency of the labor people and Khmer patriots who positively support Prince Sihanouk to counter the Lon Nol clique and the US. They will tightly coordinate with the SVN Liberation Front and Liberation Army.

The Front Committee's members will be the representatives who are elected by the people to serve the people.

Following are the specific missions of the Front Committee:

1. Guide the people and unite them into a single bloc to implement the following three missions prescribed by Prince Sihanouk: Overthrow the reactionary Lon Nol Government, keep close coordination among the Khmer and Vietnamese people to defeat the US, and set up a new ((Cambodia)) country.

2. Guide and organize the Khmer people into liberation associations, such as liberation youths, women, teenagers and old aged associations. Build up local armed forces and the Khmer Liberation Army.

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3. Guide the people to fight the Americans and Lon Nol-Matak clique who conducted sweep operations and oppression against the people. Strive to oppose the robbers, reconnaissance and intelligence personnel, and their henchmen who have disturbed the security and public order in the Khmer hamlets and villages.

4. Guide the people to increase farm production, take care of the people's health, educate them, and improve their living conditions both materially and ideologically.

5. Teach the Cambodian people to love their country and promote their deep hatred against the US imperialist aggressors and the Lon Nol-Matak clique. Closely coordinate with the Vietnamese people and the South Vietnam Liberation troops. Be determined to implement Prince Sihanouk's appeal made on 23 March 1970.

B. Organization of the Front Committee in the village (Khum) and hamlet (Phum):

a. Operating procedures:

According to the requirements of the present situation, the organization of the Front Committee must be urgently carried out to replace the old government and stabilize the ideology of the people in order to implement combat and production tasks. The organization of the Front Committee can be organized as follows:

After spreading propaganda among the people on the duty of the committee and criteria for the election of personnel, the action unit should strive to assess the people's opinions and ask the advice of key and aged people who have done good deeds in the village to know those people who should be elected to the committee.

Carefully investigate the history and political background of the people who committed serious crimes towards the Kmer people. Those who display hostile attitudes against us ((VC)) and the Kmer friendly forces, and those suspected to be Lon Nol's henchmen, must be prevented from being elected into the committee by urging our key agents to denounce them before the people. If the people believe and elect the above mentioned bad individuals, we should accept them temporarily and later use the authority of higher echelon to dismiss them from the Front Committee. We should use the hand raising method of voting. The elected people should have the support of the majority of the participants in the election (representatives or people in the hamlet).

The election should be solemn, we should also organize an inauguration ceremony to introduce the Front Committee before the people along with the celebration of handing over weapons to the Liberation guerrillas (if weapons are available and the guerrilla force has been organized).

b. Following are the four criteria needed to be elected into the Committee:

1. Those people who have gained the most confidence from the people in the village and hamlet.
2. Those people who have decided to oppose the Lon Nol reactionary clique, and are willing to support the five-point declaration and three missions of FUNK ((the National Reunification Front Committee)) prescribed by Sihanouk.
3. Those people who have not committed any crimes toward the people and have displayed good solidarity among Vietnamese people and the SVN Liberation Troops in the fight against the Americans and their henchmen.
4. These people must eagerly serve the people, observe their opinions and agree with all actions of the Front Committee without without having any division among the Front and the people.

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c. Number of personnel and the assignment of missions:

1. The village committee should have from five to seven members:

If the village committee has five members, they can be assigned as follows:

One chairman who supervises all activities of the committee and takes charge of the leadership of revolutionary organizations.

One vice chairman who takes charge of the military and security task.

One clerk who takes charge of information, administration, culture and indoctrination.

One will take charge of the production task and one other will take charge of public health and social welfare.

If the village committee has seven members, the additional two members should assume the following tasks:

One should take charge of information, culture, and indoctrination. The other one should take charge of the people's organizations.

2. The hamlet committee should have from three to five members:

If a hamlet committee has three members, they may be assigned as follows:

One chief who will take charge of various tasks, such as administration, information, culture, indoctrination, and people's associations.

One member who will take charge of military and security activities.

One other member who will take charge of production, public health, and social welfare.

If a hamlet committee has five members, they may be assigned as follows:

One chief who will take charge of administration, information, culture, and education.

One deputy chief who will take charge of military and security tasks.

One member who will take charge of production activities.

One member who will take charge of the activities of various association.

One other member who will take charge of public health and social welfare.

3. Working procedures of the committee:

While waiting for more specific regulations, the Front Committee must be re-elected every six months. After being elected, the committees at lower levels must be approved by higher level. The working procedures of the committee will be based on collective leadership. Problems must be discussed and voted on by the majority. The chairman or vice chairman will not have more authority than the committee members. The minority must submit its will to the majority. The lower echelon committees must obey the committees of higher echelon. All members of the committee, including the chairman or vice chairman, should follow the opinion of the majority in the committee. All members who are assigned respective tasks must be responsible for their task performance and report the results to the committee.

The village committee and the hamlet committee should hold a meeting monthly and every fifteen days, respectively, under the command of the chairman or the chief in order to review the activities of the committee, the situation in the hamlet and village, and plan the tasks for the coming month. Depending on the position and responsibility, each committee member should strive to satisfactorily carry out his daily task. If he encounters difficulty, he should ask for advice from the village committee chairman or the hamlet committee chief. If important problems arise, the chairman should coordinate with the vice chairman to settle the problem. If they both are in disagreement or there is an important matter, an emergency meeting should be held by the committee to solve the problem.

The village committee chairman should hold a monthly conference with the hamlet committee chiefs (chief or deputy chief of the hamlet committee) to assess the situation and disseminate the resolution concerning leadership of the village committee. In addition, a separate meeting can be held in each branch to discuss such activities as military, production, information, and the public health of the village, etc....((sic)).

In hamlets, the committee should gather the people monthly to report to them the activities and results of the committee and guide them to execute the resolutions of the coming month. At the same time, motivate them to contribute their opinions for strengthening the committee.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCE AT VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVELS:

A. Organization:

1. Organization of the village Military Affairs Committee and Command Committee of the hamlet militia platoons:

The village Military Affairs Committee should have three personnel: One chief and two deputy chiefs.

The position of chief of the Military Affairs Committee should be assumed by the vice chairman of the village who will take charge of the security task.

The Village Military Affairs Committee will be specialized in controlling the village and hamlet/guerrilla and militia forces. This committee will conduct military training courses for the guerrilla and militia forces and provide leadership in combat. It will be responsible for the distribution of weapons and ammunition and motivating the militia to perform military tasks to serve the combat troops, such as medical evacuation, transportation of ammunition, collection of war-booty and destruction of communications routes, etc....((sic)).

In hamlets, the Command Committee of the militia platoon should be organized so as to train and guide the militia to carry out combat activities. The platoon Command Committee consists of one platoon leader and one or two assistant platoon leaders.

The platoon Command Committee will report the results of their activities to the personnel who take charge of hamlet military affairs. The latter will report to the Village Military Affairs Committee and Hamlet Front Committee.

2. Organization of militia and guerrilla forces in the hamlet and village:

In the hamlets, the liberation militia force should be organized. This force should be composed of males and females who are still in good health and are enthusiastically willing to fight the Americans and their Lon Nol-lackey clique.

We should select from among the liberation militia, one squad of young men who have progressed, are enthusiastic, have strong determination to fight the Americans, have shown love towards the people, and have gained confidence of the people, to organize them as a hamlet guerrilla unit. This guerrilla unit should be well-armed and carefully trained in military tactics.

In the villages, guerrilla squads and platoons should be organized. They should be selected from various hamlets. These village guerrilla units should be armed with rifles to fight the enemy and carefully trained on military tactics.

3. Equipment and weapons:

Hamlet militia should be equipped with machetes, axes, sticks, and various types of rudimentary weapons which they have made.

Hamlet and village guerrillas should be equipped with rifles, grenades, and mines which were either seized from the enemy or self-made. This equipment may also be issued by higher echelon.

4. Living and messing problems:

Hamlet militia and guerrillas should live and carry out production tasks in their own homes. When carrying out missions, they will be gathered at an assembly point and then will return to their own houses after accomplishing their tasks; village guerrillas must live together in the village. They should be controlled and commanded by the Village Military Affairs Committee. They must simultaneously fight the enemy and carry out the production task for self-sufficiency so as to reduce the people's food contribution.

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B. Mission:

a. Missions of the village guerrillas:

The village guerrilla is the concentrated armed force of the people which has the following missions:

1. Counter the enemy's sweep operations and occupation of the village for the liberation of the village; protection of the people's livelihood and property; and for motivating the people to increase farm production.

2. Pursue the enemy's Special Forces, capture his reconnaissance personnel, and annihilate reactionary elements who sabotage security and public order of the village.

3. Provide information concerning the present situation and guide and support the Khmer liberation army in all fields in attacking the enemy.

4. Guide and help hamlet guerrillas to attack the enemy.

5. Protect the village Front Committee and the units and agencies of higher echelons stationed in their own villages. If necessary, they must escort cadre in the village and those of higher echelons who go on missions.

b. Missions of hamlet guerrillas and militia

The hamlet guerrillas must coordinate with village combat guerrillas to maintain security and public order of the village, assist the liberation troops to prepare the battlefield, pursue Special Forces, capture enemy reconnaissance personnel and protect cadre as the village guerrillas do. In addition, the hamlet guerrillas must be the key force to guide the militia in carrying out all types of missions.

The militia has the responsibility of building combat hamlets and villages and participating in all combat activities such as sabotage, evacuation of wounded soldiers, transportation of ammunition and supplies, providing guidance for the liberation troops, guarding and protecting the people in the hamlet in order for them to fight the Special Forces and enemy reconnaissance personnel who undermine the hamlet's security and order.

c. Conduct training courses to provide political indoctrination and military training for the guerrillas:

a. Political indoctrination:

1. Lesson one will consist of the situation and missions of the guerrilla forces (see the training document of the Kmer Army).
2. Lesson two will consist of the role of the Kmer Liberation Army ((see the training document of the Liberation Army).
3. Missions of the guerrillas and militia.

(See paragraph B, part IV in this document).

The indoctrination should be based on the contents of the above three documents to enhance the guerrillas' revolutionary awareness so that they will closely coordinate with the Kmer liberation troops and clearly understand their specific missions.

b. Military training:

The military training should be used as a means to organize guerrillas and militiamen into a tight unit. The training should be adopted appropriately according to the specific situation of each area with the purpose of familiarizing the guerrillas and militia with the use of various types of weapons, grenades, mines, and the construction of combat villages and hamlets.

V. IN ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING THE FRONT COMMITTEE, THE ACTION UNIT, SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. The organization of the Front Committee must be carried out urgently

so as to meet the pressing demands dictated by the present situation. We must have the situation well in hand and make careful preparations before starting the organization. We should eliminate such errors as hesitation and lack of political responsibility.

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2. We must strive to motivate those who have most confidence among the people (including Buddhist monks) to participate in the activities of the Front Committee. However, our control must be exerted closely. We should strive to prevent bad elements and persons who have blood debt, or a bad political background from being elected into the Committee. We should not adopt severe discipline but try to simultaneously strengthen the organization and indoctrinate them to promote their political awareness.

3. All members and security agents of the Front Committee must be the key personnel who have great courage and enthusiasm and gain full confidence among the people.

In addition, they must have good relations with our friendly forces.

4. After completing the organization, efforts must be made to immediately and satisfactorily implement all types of tasks so as to display the power of the new government in serving the people. Only by doing so will the people enthusiastically support the Front Committee. The armed action units must assist the Committee in all types of civilian, military and political activities.

5. The National Reunification Front Committee must support and respect the opinions of the local authorities. They must uphold the prestige of the Front Committee. They should try to indoctrinate and motivate them to perform their tasks. Absolutely avoid the tendency of threatening or oppressing them.

6. All problems concerning the judgement of the people, such as denunciation of bad elements, punishment of the Khmer traitors and economic matters, must be settled by the Front Committee and the people themselves. The action units should not intervene in these activities. The punishment of the Khmer reactionaries and traitors can be taken under such forms as warning or putting them under house arrest, even condemning them to death, but not only by "killing" them. If we confiscate their property, we must motivate the people to denounce their crimes so that we can seize it in the name of the people and distribute the property to the people. In this way, the people only take back their property but we do not give it to them.

7. Attention must be paid to the selection of cadre assigned as advisors for the Front Committees. They must have firm ideology, good working attitudes and ethics so as to assume the supervisory duty in the meetings of the Committee (if they are invited to participate).

Only two cadre are allowed to participate in each meeting of the Committee (including interpreter). We must be dedicated to our duty, and modestly and skillfully express our opinions to assist the Committee. Cadre should strive to avoid bad attitudes before the Committee under all

circumstances. The action unit is considered the advisory unit. However, they not only carry out propaganda activities and give advice to the committee, but also stay close to the people to assist them. They, especially, closely control the guerrilla units and Village Military Affairs Committee.

8. The action unit must study thoroughly the patriotism and international proletarianism and strictly execute the 10 civilian proselyting directives prescribed by higher echelons.

Specifically, they must exemplify a good revolutionary nature and heroic tradition of the People's Army and strictly observe the prescribed regulations on civilian proselyting. The following points must be strictly carried out:

They should not be stationed inside the people's houses, but only located near them so as to facilitate their implementation of missions.

They must directly participate in and support the people to carry out production tasks.

They should not take advantage of their positions to buy or exchange goods with the people. In places where supply conditions are favorable, they must immediately report to higher echelons.

They should not accept any present or assistance from the people which may disturb the people's lives.

Drinking alcohol is strictly forbidden, because it will bring about bad influence among the people.

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The major task of the action unit is to motivate and indoctrinate the people to promote their political awareness and rely on them to carry out the task assigned by higher echelons. They must enhance their vigilance against the enemy's schemes. They must stay close to the people to carry out the slogan, "We must be respected by the people." They must regularly request instructions and submit reports to higher echelons as well as review their activities to learn experiences from the implementation of their missions.

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