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翻译

TRANSLATIONS

**Spring Breeze Accompanies Us
As We Strive Forward**



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Spring Breeze Accompanies Us As We Strive Forward

Stories of a Northern Theater Command Navy coastal defense missile regiment doing a good job educating and managing new recruits in the spring enlistment period by closely aligning with human sentiment¹

By Teng Hao, Yang Liu, and Special Correspondent Liu Zihao



In early spring, as the morning light broke, the exercise grounds of a certain Northern Theater Command Navy coastal defense missile regiment was bustling with activity. A vehicle company was holding an election to recognize core (骨干) personnel. Notably, among the five candidates, there were two conscripts, including Zhang Xiangbei, a new sailor who enlisted in March of last year. "We have shattered the previous convention of only selecting non-commissioned officers to be core personnel for certain specialties, adhering to the principle of 'whoever has ability stands out.' The list is determined through competition and then submitted to the Party Branch for discussion." Instructor Ma Renzhong said that over the past two years, they have explored new

¹ 腾昊 [Teng Hao], 杨柳 [Yang Liu], and 刘子浩 [Liu Zihao], 风作伴好奋进——讲述北部战区海军某岸导团紧扣活思想做好春季入伍士兵教育管理工作的故事 ["Spring Breeze Accompanies Us As We Strive Forward—Telling the story of a Northern Theater Command Navy coastal defense missile regiment doing a good job educating and managing new recruits in the spring enlistment period by closely aligning with human sentiment"], 人民海军 [People's Navy], 20 February 2023, p. 4.

paths for the education and management of new recruits in response to the new characteristics brought by the "two enlistments and two demobilizations" model, and the various measures implemented have been well-received by officers and sailors.²

Enhancing Understanding to Make the Ranks More United

Recalling the spring new recruits he trained, Ma Renzhong frankly stated, "Some situations were beyond what I expected."

Last June, after completing new sailor training, Han Kelun was assigned to the regiment's vehicle company. Unexpectedly, the "master" assigned to him in the squad was Zhai Xuyi, who had only enlisted six months earlier than him.

"If you can't fold your quilt properly, get up early and press it down. Don't let yourself hold back the entire squad! You've been taught this procedure so many times, how can you still not get it...?" That day, after being severely criticized by Zhai Xuyi once again, Han Kelun snapped back at him on the spot.

Ma Renzhong rushed over upon hearing about the incident, and Han Kelun didn't hold back: "Zhai Xuyi joined up just six months before me, and he has the same single stripe on his shoulder, yet I have to call him squad leader and listen to him in everything. How can I not be frustrated?" Zhai Xuyi continued pouring out his grievances: "Training and preparing for combat cannot tolerate the slightest carelessness. Being strict with themselves also helps new comrades to grow quickly. How could it have a counterproductive effect?"

"Comrades are like family, and precisely because of this close relationship, some friction is normal. 'When three men walk together, there is one who can be my teacher.' New comrades should humbly accept criticism and make improvements where needed; senior comrades should also pay attention to their methods and not put on airs. Both sides need to increase their understanding of each other." With Ma Renzhong's guidance, the two shook hands and made peace.

In the following days, Zhai Xuyi engaged in self-reflection and adjusted his work attitude, while Han Kelun, when encountering difficulties, also began to proactively seek guidance from his "mentor." In the subsequent recreational competition, Ma Renzhong suggested the two form a team. They cooperated with each other and did well in events like the three-legged race and balloon pinch race. Holding their certificates, the two high-fived each other in celebration, smiling very happily.

Coincidentally, a similar situation occurred in a missile launch company. "Jiao Youshuai, you enlisted six months before Zhu Wuping. From now on, you will lead him in work and training." As soon as the squad leader finished speaking, Jiao Youshuai couldn't help feeling self-satisfied, and he was determined to show off in front of the new recruit: he wanted to compete with Zhu Wuping.

² **Translator's note:** The phrase "Two enlistments and two demobilizations" (两征两退) refers to the new system of enlisting/demobilizing conscripts twice each year instead of once implemented since 2021.

Physical fitness, tactics, theory, routine tasks...After a round of competition, Jiao Youshuai was stunned: Zhu Wuping not only met the standards in each category, but even surpassed him. It was then that Jiao Youshuai learned that this seemingly unremarkable new comrade was a "second-time enlistee," having previously served in the PLA Navy Marine Corps. He was highly impressed.

This interesting story reached the ears of instructor Liu Shengtao. He couldn't help but wonder: "Since the implementation of the 'two enlistments and two demobilizations' model, the capabilities and quality of personnel have been improving. Can we press the 'accelerate button' on talent cultivation?" Liu Shengtao raised this question at the Party Branch Committee meeting. After some investigation, they developed a method to select core personnel from among the conscripts. Over the past six months, several conscripts have developed rapidly and achieved leaps in their capabilities. Related methods have been promoted throughout the entire regiment.

Tailoring Training to Individuals Makes It More Scientific

Security and service company commander Ge Zhenqiang still remembers an incident in December 2021, when Wang Guandong, a spring new recruit who had just been assigned to the unit after finishing with his basic training, was accidentally injured. This sparked a major discussion within the company about the training of new recruits.

Wang Guandong is relatively overweight. During basic training, his competitive spirit led him to constantly push himself to meet physical fitness standards. After joining his company, Wang Guandong discovered that the company would rank and analyze the training performance of new sailors. However, he consistently ranked behind several seamen who had enlisted six months before him, which made him somewhat anxious.

"Squad leader, everyone says the first month after joining the company is crucial. Can you teach me how to break through the bottleneck?" That day, Wang Guandong sought help from Petty Officer Liu Xin. "Your situation is very similar to mine back then. Your basal bodyweight is about the same, with a high body fat percentage, and a tendency to gain weight easily. You have to train harder than others!" Liu Xin shared everything he knew, and Wang Guandong listened attentively. Soon, Wang Guandong formulated a plan for additional training based on the squad leader's suggestions: waking up an hour early to build explosive power and using large chunks of spare time for endurance training... Everyone noticed Wang Guandong's efforts.

However, in less than a week, due to excessive physical fatigue and insufficient warmups in the winter's cold morning temperatures, Wang Guandong suffered a muscle strain during his extra training.

This matter made Liu Xin quite embarrassed. He proactively submitted self-criticism at the company affairs committee meeting: "I helped design Wang Guandong's training plan, and I am responsible. Back then, we all enlisted in the fall and joined companies in June the following year, when the weather was hot and suitable for training. Training plans formulated under those conditions clearly can't be directly applied in the cold winter..."

Upon hearing this, Ge Zhenqiang felt a jolt. "The 'seasonal aspects' of spring enlistment for new recruits are different, and training management must be tailored to individuals." Soon, the

company issued a survey questionnaire. "There are limited quantities of certain types of equipment, and both 'new and old seamen' need to train. It is important to fairly allocate training time." "Competing with 'old seamen' is really stressful..." Ge Zhenqiang brought the collected ideas to the Party Branch Committee meeting, where everyone brainstormed and reached a consensus on "focusing on strength training during the winter, increasing the duration of warm-up exercises before strenuous exercises," and "optimizing training groupings." The quality and effectiveness of new recruit training were further improved.

Results Speak for Themselves, Earning Respect for Hard Work

Late last spring, command company political instructor Deng Yonggang noticed that during extracurricular activity time, Seaman Zhao Wanqiang, who enlisted in March 2021, was sitting at the entrance of the study room, looking troubled. "Why aren't you going inside to study?" Faced with the political instructor's question, Zhao Wanqiang dodged by saying he was just getting some fresh air.

At the beginning of his service, Zhao Wanqiang set a goal of entering a military academy. Even if the daytime training was exhausting, he would study until late at night. However, now Deng Yonggang saw that something was off with Zhao Wanqiang and became concerned.

That night, Deng Yonggang again encountered Zhao Wanqiang, who was burning the midnight oil, and casually draped a coat over him. "It's already late; you should get some rest. Even when studying, you need to balance work and rest. I've noticed you've been a bit irritable lately. Is there anything troubling you?"

Zhao Wanqiang's eyes suddenly turned red, "Instructor, I want to give up on this year's exam." It turned out that two other sailors in Zhao Wanqiang's squad, who enlisted six months earlier than him, also wanted to take the exam. Someone tactfully suggested: "The two senior comrades have had more time to study than you. If you are not completely confident, I'd recommend studying one more year and giving them a chance first, since you plan to serve in the military for a long time anyway..."

"Taking the entrance examinations is a sailor's fundamental right, and we will treat it with absolute fairness." Deng Yonggang said that the work unit had just established a new regulation that there will be four placement examinations before the main examinations, and candidates will be selected based on their scores. "Experience doesn't measure ability, and seniority doesn't mean special treatment is needed." Encouraged by the instructor, Zhao Wanqiang reaffirmed his determination to take the exam.

Ultimately, Zhao Wanqiang successfully gained admission to the Naval NCO School. Now he is dedicating his youth to the ocean of knowledge, advancing at full speed towards his dreams.