Unit Cohesion Among the Three Soviet Women's Air Regiments during World War II

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The Soviet Union was unique in its use of women for combat roles, becoming the first state to use female pilots to fly combat missions. "Unit Cohesion Among the Three Soviet Women's Air Regiments During World War II" analyzes the factors that shaped the cohesion of the three women's regiments formed from Aviation Group No. 122. Unit cohesion is the glue that holds together a military unit through times of adversity, fear of death, and unimaginable suffering and sacrifice. Many factors affect the cohesion of a unit. The factors discussed in this study are: the effectiveness of command, the plane each regiment flew, the gender composition of the unit, and the reaction of men to the women fighting. This thesis utilized the published memoirs written by veterans of the women's regiments along with interviews conducted years later by Anne Noggle and Reina Pennington. The study of these women presents a tremendous opportunity to straddle military history, women's studies, and Russian history to establish precedence in contemporary debates surrounding the use of female combatants.

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The Night Witches - Russian Combat Pilots of World War Two. Airwomen of the Red Star San Diego Aerospace Museum. Unit Cohesion Among the Three Soviet Women's Air Regiments During World War II (Master's thesis by Jessica Bhuvasorakul). Categories: Female aviators | Military history of the Soviet Union during World War II | Military units and formations of the Soviet and Russian Air Forces | Women in World War II | All-female units and formations. "Night Witches" was a World War II German nickname for the female military aviators of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment, known later as the 46th "Taman" Guards Night Bomber Aviation Regiment, of the Soviet Air Forces. Though women were initially barred from combat, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin issued an order on October 8, 1941 to deploy three women's air force units, including the 588th regiment. The regiment, formed by Major Marina Raskova and led by Major Yevdokiya Bershanskaya, was made up