

---

## ESTABLISHMENT OF TURKESTAN MILITARY DISTRICT AND ITS MILITARY-ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE (in 1860s)

Bokhodirov Ikhtiyor Bokhodirovich

Researcher History of Uzbekistan, National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent,  
Uzbekistan

**ABSTRACT:** The main task of the troops of the military district were the development of plans for military operations to conquer Turkestan, its implementation and the completion of the occupation of Central Asia. In addition, the troops of the Turkestan military district were responsible for maintaining imperial dominance in Bukhara and Khiva, guarding their borders, conducting intelligence in neighboring countries for geopolitical purposes, conducting military-strategic research in Turkestan and suppressing national liberation movements against colonialism.

**KEYWORDS:** Military district, troops, rifle, battalion, company, cossack, cavalry, infantry, fleet, regiments.

### INTRODUCTION

On July 11, 1867, according to the decree of the Russian emperor Alexander II № 44831, the Turkestan governor-general was established which included the Syr-darya and Semirech'e regions[1]. The Russian empire felt the need for regular troops in Turkestan in order to occupy Central Asia completely, keep Kokand, Bukhara and Khiva under its control, and resist other countries' attacks on Turkestan in the future. With this in mind, according to the order of Alexander II № 44844 of July 1867, Turkestan military district was formed by the Imperial Military Ministry on the territory of the Governor-general Turkestan[2].

Its main management system is formed around the General Staff of the Military district, the Military district Council and the Turkestan Army Corps.

**The main military-administrative departments of the military district[3]:**

Army corps department	Department of shock troops
Artillery department	Department of military intendant
Weapons control headquarters	Engineering department
Department of military medicine	Military veterinary department
Special military topography depart.	Military district court

In Turkestan, military power is concentrated in the hands of the Commander-in-chief of the military district and the chief of staff of the district. The first Commander-in-chief of the military district was general-adjutant Konstantin Petrovich von Kaufman (1867-1882) and the first chief of staff of the district major-general Viktor Deziderevich Dandeville (1867-1871).

The Commander-in-chief of the military district received an average salary of 30,000-35,000 rubles a year. In the military district of Central Russia this amount averages 8,000 rubles[4].

**The Commander-in-chiefs of the Turkestan military district:**

1	1867-1882 yy.	K.P fon Kaufman	8	1905-1906 yy.	D.I.Subbotich
2	1882-1884 yy.	M.G.Chernyayev	9	1906-1908 yy.	N.I.Grodekov
3	1884-1889 yy.	N.O. fon Rozenbax	10	1908-1909 yy.	P.I.Mishchenko
4	1889-1898 yy.	A.B.Vrevskiy	11	1909-1914 yy.	A.V.Samsonov
5	1898-1901 yy.	S.M.Duxovskiy	12	1904-1916 yy.	F.V.Martson
6	1901-1904 yy.	N.A.Ivanov	12	1916 y.	M.R.Yerofeyev
7	1904-1905 yy.	N.N.Tevyashev	14	1916-1917 yy.	A.N.Kuropatkin

Infantry, cavalry (cossack), artillery, engineering (sapper), railway and river-naval units served in Turkestan military district.

Infantry. The main group of Russian troops in Turkestan were infantry. There were “line” (lineiny) and “rifle” (strelkovy) types of infantry in Turkestan. The infantry is organized into military units in the form of “platoon-company-battalion-regiment-brigade”. In the Turkestan military district at the beginning of XX century 1 brigade consisted of 4 regiments, the regiment consisted of 2 rifle battalions, the battalions consisted of 4 companies and the company consisted of 4-5 platoons. The company consisted of up to 168 ordinary soldiers and yefreitor (corporals) without unter officers in the border military district (including Turkestan). During the war, the contingent was increased to 226 men – 4 officer, 20 unter officer, 202 ordinary soldiers and corporals[5].

12 Turkestan line battalions were formed on the basis of the 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9th Orenburg and 1,3,6th Western Siberian battalions in 1867[6]. In 1875 13,14,15th line battalions, in 1877 16,17th line battalions, in 1882 18,19,20th line battalions were formed. Line battalions consisted of 4 lines and 1 rifle companies until the early 1880s. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Turkestan rifle battalions were formed in 4 companial formations on the basis of the battalions of the Orenburg military district in 1867-1870[7]. On September 8, 1870, by order of the Minister of War № 1727, 1st Turkestan rifle brigade was formed on the basis of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Turkestan and 18th Orenburg rifle battalions[8].

Cavalry. Cossacks (soldiers guarding the imperial borders) were used as cavalry in Turkestan. Cossacks from Orenburg, Ural, Siberia, Semirech'e, Kuban and Astrakhan served in the Turkestan military district in different years.

The Cossacks were divided into "sotnia-regiment-brigade-division". The "sotnia" consisted of 120 cossacks in peacetime and 135 in wartime: 1 vakhmistr, 4 platoon uriadniks, 8 smoll uriadniks, 1 trupet player, 1 paramedic, 120 cossacks[9]. At the time military district was formed, there were 30 cossack "sotnia" in Turkestan[10]. One cossack regiment was formed out of 6 sotnia (810 cossacks). In addition to the cossacks, the cossack regiment also included up to 25 officers, 2-3 doctors, 2-3 military officials and a regimental priest. Teams of machine gunners and cavalry sappers were also formed in the cossacks division[11].

Artillery. In the Turkestan military district, artillery troops were formed on the basis filed and fortress artillery units. Field artillery divided into 2 types: cavalry and infantry artillery batteries. The 1st Turkestan artillery brigade was established on the basis of the Orenburg artillery brigade[12].

Engineering units. Attention was also paid to the formation of the engineering troops in military district. On July 13, 1867, the Turestan sapper company was formed on the basis of the 1st Orenburg sapper company[13]. Colonel Schleifer was appointed commander of the engineering troops. When the scale of military engineering work expanded, the number of sapper companies increased to two in 1880. A semi-battalion of Turkestan sappers was formed on the basis of captain Vamelkin's 1st sapper company (248 men) and captain Borisov's 2nd sapper company (234 men)[14]. The Turkestan heliograph-telegraph military units, consisting of 2 sapper officers, 2 unter officer and 18 telegraphers, led by lieutenant Grebner was formed in the Turkestan sapper semi-battalion[15].

Flotlia. At the initiative of captain Butakov, the Aral fleet (1853-1883) was established in 1853. “Perovsky”, “Syrdarya”, “Aral”, “Samarkand”, “Tashkent” steamships and the “Obruchyov” barge (a little small warship) began to move[16]. The “Samarkand” was built at Kokreil factory in Belgium, “Perovsky”, “Obruchyov” at Mutal in Sweden, “Aral”, “Syrdarya” in Windsor, England and “Tashkent” at Kamsko-Votkinsk factory in Russia[17].

The Amudarya fleet (1887-1918) was established to strengthen the southern borders of Turkestan. The naval port of the flotlia was in Chardjou. The ships of the flotlia went from Petro-Aleksandrovsky to Termez. The Amudarya fleet included steamships “Sar”, “Saritsa”, “Sarevich”, “Veliky Knyaz”, “Velikaya knyajna Olga” and “Emperor Nicholas II”[18]. At the beginning of the 20th century, the fleet consisted of 6 steamships, 2 steamboats, 13 barges[19].

Russian troops in Turkestan were divided into four groups according to their military rank [20],[21]:

	<b>Military rank</b>	<b>№</b>	<b>Piyoda qo’shinlar</b>	<b>Kazak qo’shinlari</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> step</b>	<b>ordinary soldier and unter officers</b>	1	1. ordinary soldier	cossack
		2	2.yefreitor (corporal)	
		3	3.smoll unter-ofitser	smoll uriadnik
		4	4.elder unter-ofitser	elder uryadnik
		5	5.feldfebel	vakhmistr
		6	6.podpraposhik	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> step</b>	<b>Ober officers</b>	7	7.praporshik	
		8	8.second lieutenant	cornet
		9	9.lieutenant (poruchik)	sotnik
		10	10.staff captain	podisaul
		11	11.captain	yesaul
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Staff officers</b>	12	12.lieutenant colonel	military foreman
		13	13.colonel	
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Generals’ rank</b>	14	14. major general	major general
		15	15. lieutenant general	lieutenant general
		16	16.infantry general	cavalry general

At the time of the formation of the military district, most of the troops were located in the Syrdarya region. As of January 1868, the total number of infantry and engineering troops (9

lines, 1 rifle battalions and 1 sapper company) in the Syrdarya region was 10,560 men[22]. The Cossack army on the Syrdarya consisted of 2096 Orenburg cossacks, 870 Ural cossacks and 1078 Orenburg infantry cossacks[23]. The main part of these military units: 10 companies, 3 sotnia, 12 artilleries in Yangikurgan fortress, 5 companies, 7 sotnia, 6 artilleries in Jizzakh, 10 companies, 1 sotnia, 10 artillery in Khujand and 8 companies, 2 sotnia, 12 artillery in tashkent were placed[24]. After the occupation of part of the Bukhara emirate in 1868, some military units in the Syrdarya region were located in Zarafshan district.

**Infantry units located in Syrdarya region and Zarafshan district (January 1869)[25]**

Military units	Officers: General worknlace	Ofiterlar: Current situati.	The composit. of the milit. un. General workp.	The composit. of the milit. un. Current situati.	Military units commanders
1 <sup>st</sup> line bat.	29	30	1115	915	lieut. colon. Genrix Shandler
2 <sup>nd</sup> line bat.	29	31	1115	765	lieut. colon. Avenir Pyatnitskiy
3 <sup>rd</sup> line bat.	29	27	1115	891	
4 <sup>th</sup> line bat.	29	31	1115	966	lieut. colon. Aleksandr Genning
5 <sup>th</sup> line bat.	29	29	1115	851	
6 <sup>th</sup> line bat.	29	28	1115	859	colonel Fridrix fon Shtepmel
7 <sup>th</sup> line bat.	29	28	1115	932	
8 <sup>th</sup> line bat.	29	26	1115	1015	
9 <sup>th</sup> line bat.	29	30	1115	914	lieut. colon. Vasiliy Sokovnin
1 <sup>st</sup> rifle bat.	26	31	887	795	
2 <sup>nd</sup> rifle bat.	26	21	906	827	lieut. colon. Leonard Veymar
T. sapper com.	6	6	271	224	
<b>That's all</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>12099</b>	<b>9954</b>	

**Cossack troops stationed in the Syrdarya region (January 1869)[26]**

	Officers	Cossacks		Officers	Coss.

<b>Orenburg cossacks</b>	1-sotnia	5	118	<b>Orenburg cossacks</b>	20-sotnia	2	139
	2-sotnia	2	112		21-sotnia	3	145
	3-sotnia	3	111		22-sotnia	3	145
	4-sotnia	2	146		23-sotnia	3	143
	5-sotnia	2	128		24-sotnia	3	145
	6-sotnia	2	125		<b>Ural cossacks</b>	1-sotnia	3
	7-sotnia	2	113	2-sotnia		4	140
	8-sotnia	3	133	3-sotnia		3	133
	9-sotnia	1	137	4-sotnia		2	122
	10-sotnia	4	127	5-half sotnia		2	71
	11-sotnia	2	?	6-sotnia		3	136
	12-sotnia	2	134	7-half sotnia		1	61
	13-sotnia	3	136	8-sotnia		1	73
	14-sotnia	3	124	9-sotnia		2	145
	15-sotnia	2	139	10-sotnia		3	145
	16-sotnia	2	144	11-sotnia		3	144
	17-sotnia	4	144	1-Oren. infantry.bat.		18	1014
	18-sotnia	3	145	6-Oren. infantry.bat.		5	1061
	19-sotnia	1	138	7-Oren. infantry.bat	19	1091	
<b>That's all</b>						139	7859

In January 1869, the Syrdarya region had a total of 17151 soldiers and 355 officers in the infantry, cavalry and The Aral fleet. Infantry – 258 officers and 12138 ordinary soldiers, cavalry – 89 officers and 4693 cossacks, the Aral fleet – 8 officers and 320 soldiers[27].

There were 10,11,12th Turkestan line battalions and 1,2nd Semirech'e cossack regiments, 2nd Turkestan artillery brigade, Verniy fortress artillery in Semirech'e region in 1867-1870. By order of emperor Alexander II №44845[28] and Minister of War №251 [29], two regiments of the Semirech'e cossack troops were formed on the basis of the 9th and 10th Siberian cossack regiments. There were 7832 cossack in 1868[30] and 10649 cossack men in 1869[31] in Semirech'e. The Semirech'e cossack army consisted of 1367 men in 1870: 1 staff officer, 15 ober officers, 72 uriadniks, 7 trumpeters and 1272 ordinary cossacks[32]. The commander-in-chief of the Turkestan Military district was the commander of the Semirech'e cossack troops.

The Turkestan artillery troops consisted of 2839 men: 16 staff officers, 49 ober officers, 18 officials and 2756 lower-ranking military personnel in 1870[33]. The main artillery units were the

Turkestan artillery brigade (3 batteries: 690 men), the Verniy, Shimkent, Perovsky and Chinaz fortress artillery companies (657 men), 1st, 2nd Siberian cavalry mountain artillery batteries, the Tashkent artillery team, 2nd Orenburg cavalry artillery battery (482 cossacks), the 1st division of the 3rd Orenburg cavalry artillery battery[34].

## CONCLUSION

During the 19th century the Russian empire waged large-scale wars of conquest in Turkestan. Russia made a militarized colonial system in the occupied territories. The military district was the basic of the system colonial rule in Turkestan. The military district was formed to need a regular army to completely occupy the country and keep the the Bukhara emirate, Khiva khanate under its control. The military district supported the Russian colonial system in Turkestan for 50 years.

## REFERENCES

1. Полное собрание законов Российской империи. Собрание 2. Томъ XLII. Отделение 1. Отъ № 44078-44894. – С.-Петербургъ. Въ типографии и отдѣлннн собственннн Е.И.В. канцелярннн. 1871. – с. 1150
2. Полное собрание законов Российской империи. Собрание 2. Томъ XLII. Отделение 1. Отъ № 44078-44894. – С.-Петербургъ. Въ типографии и отдѣлннн собственннн Е.И.В. канцелярннн .1871. – с. 1156
3. National Archive of Uzbekistan, 1396th fond, 2nd list, 1st work, 10th p.
4. Abdurahimova N., Ergashev F. Turkistonda chor mustamlaka tizimi. – Toshkent: Akademiya. 2002. – b. 171.
5. Суряев В.Н. Великая война. Беларусь. Фронт. Северо-Западннн край Российской имперннн в войннн 1914-1918 гг. – Саарбрюкен (Германия): LAMBERT Academic Publishing. 2015. – с. 173.
6. Макшеевъ А.И. Историческнн обзоръ Туркестана и наступательннн движенин в него русскнхъ. – СПб.: Военная типографнн. 1890. – с. 259.
7. Макшеевъ А.И. Историческнн обзоръ Туркестана и наступательннн движенин в него русскнхъ. – СПб.: Военная типографнн. 1890. – с. 260.
8. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 226th work, 1,5,6th pages.

9. Елисеев Ф.И. Казаки на Кавказской фронте 1914-1917: Записки полковника Кубанского казачьего войска в тринадцати брошюрах-тетрадах. – Москва: Воениздат. 2001. – с. 281.
10. Макшеев А.И. Исторический обзор Туркестана и наступательного движения в него русских. – СПб.: Военная типография. 1890. – с. 260.
11. Елисеев Ф.И. Казаки на Кавказской фронте 1914-1917: Записки полковника Кубанского казачьего войска в тринадцати брошюрах-тетрадах. – Москва: Воениздат. 2001. – с. 281.
12. Макшеев А.И. Исторический обзор Туркестана и наступательного движения в него русских. – СПб.: Военная типография. 1890. – с. 260.
13. Ботт А.Г. Материали для истории службы и деятельности Туркестанских саперь за 25 леть (1866-1891 г.) – С.-Петербургъ. Тип. В.А. Тиханова. 1897. - с. 16.
14. Ботт А.Г. Материали для истории службы и деятельности Туркестанских саперь за 25 леть (1866-1891 г.) – С.-Петербургъ. Тип. В.А. Тиханова. 1897. - с. 147-148.
15. Ботт А.Г. Материали для истории службы и деятельности Туркестанских саперь за 25 леть (1866-1891 г.) – С.-Петербургъ. Тип. В.А. Тиханова. 1897. - с. 157.
16. MacGregor C. The defence of India: a strategical study. – Simla. Government Central Branch Press. 1884. – p. 276.
17. Костенко Л.Ф. Туркестанский край. Опыт военно-статистического обозрения Туркестанского военного округа. Т 2. – С.-Петербургъ. Общественная польза. 1880. – с. 253.
18. Логофеть Д.Н. Бухарское ханства подь русскимь протекторатомь. Т 1. – С.-Петербургъ. Комиссионерь военно-учебныхь заведений. 1911. – с. 218.
19. Логофеть Д.Н. Бухарское ханства подь русскимь протекторатомь. Т 1. – С.-Петербургъ. Комиссионерь военно-учебныхь заведений. 1911. – с. 219.
20. Суряев В.Н. Великая война. Беларусь. Фронт. Северо-Западный край Российской империи в войне 1914-1918 гг. – Саарбрюкен (Германия): LAMBERT Academic Publishing. 2015. – с. 151-153.
21. Ганин А.В., Семенов В.Г. Офицерских корпус Оренбургского казачьего войска (1891-1945). – Москва: Русское Зарубежье. 2007. – с. 13.
22. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 6th work, 206th page.

23. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 6th work, 230,231st pages.
24. Куропаткин А.Н. Завоевание Туркмении. - Санкт-Петербург: Public Domain. 1899. – с. 27.
25. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 7th work, 211,213,240,241,242,243rd pages.
26. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 6th work, 232,233rd pages.
27. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 6th work, 233rd page.
28. Полное собрание законов Российской империи. Собрание 2. Томъ XLII. Отделение 1. Отъ № 44078-44894. – С.-Петербургъ. Въ типографии и отдѣлннх собственной Е.И.В. канцелярии. 1871. – с. 1164.
29. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 7th work, 663rd page.
30. Tarasov Mikhail. The Number of the Semirechensky Cossacks and Factors of its Dynamics in XIX - the beginning of XX centuries. // Bylye Gody. USA. 2019. Vol. 53. Is. 3. – p. 1214.
31. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 7th work, 666th page.
32. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 7th work, 665th page.
33. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 7th work, 124,125th pages.
34. NAUz, 1396th fond, 2st list, 7th work, 177th page.