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REMARKS AND IDEAS ABOUT FUTURE AVIATION TECHNOLOGIES SYMPOSIUM AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT PERSONNEL TRAINING

**MR. CHAIRMAN,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

On behalf of the head of the Education and Science Department of Hungarian MoD I would like to welcome all participants of the Future Aviation Technologies Symposium, among those the representatives of foreign countries who are taking part first time in this workshop.

INTRODUCTION

It's a good and progressive tradition at the Aviation Technical Institute (belonging to the Bolyai János Military Technical Faculty) in Szolnok, to organize Future Aviation Technologies Symposium yearly, on the occasion of the 12th of April, the Day of Astronauts.

The institution of the Future Aviation Technologies Symposium was established in 1991 by the section of Air Defense Department of the Hungarian Association of Military Sciences in Szolnok, and since then it has been held every year.

It's remarkable, that the Symposium has traditionally both military and civilian characters. Consequently we have a great opportunity to learn the result of both military and civilian research, to cooperate and to exchange experiences, - it is important for a small country's small Air Force and small defense university. It can be regarded progressive, supportable and sustainable. We need to underline that the Symposium provides a forum for young PhD students and other students who are interested in this field. The hard copy issued on the Symposium's material provides additional source to utilize the collected experience.

When we say the military and civilian character of the Symposium is to be sustained, we assume the further cooperation between the Szolnok Base (the education of the Air Force's personnel) and the Future Aviation Symposium in

the future. Interruption of this process would be harmful for the military specialist education, accordingly not advantageous for the Air Force, as well. I am very glad to highlight the international character of today's session because the presence of the foreign colleagues levels up the standard of this event and increases the quantity of experiences to be utilized.

REMARKS ON EDUCATION OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL

The education and training of military aircraft personnel seems to be the basis of the above-described relationship. The role of the educational facilities with the infrastructure – study rooms, laboratories and hangars – is important, however, training can be carried out either onto the Zrínyi Miklós Defense University's base or onto the Air Force's facilities, depending on the need of the Air Force. By the way, the education of military aircraft personnel is impossible to provide without an appropriate base for training.

When we are talking about the military aircraft personnel, or generally, about the training of officers and NCO's, we must not forget about some factors influencing the whole concept of training; such as, reform of the armed forces, reform of the military higher education, the current structure of the Hungarian Air Force, the officer/NCO ratio, the combat and technical conditions of the armament of the mentioned branch of Hungarian Defense Forces, the NATO membership requirements and so on.

During the last decade the topic of air Force's personnel training was focused several times. Due to it, this topic was discussed at the meeting of the Air Force's Staff, of the General Staff and of the MoD College, as well.

The related Air Force staff-officials have stated, it was a great mistake to integrate into the National Defense University the Air Force College in Szolnok. The reform of the armed forces, the concept and the direction, — represented by the higher echelon of the MoD — proved to be right in the last 10 years. Accordingly the new military educational system, based on one unified training base, has been able to provide an overall human resource for the Hungarian Armed Forces after the year of 2000. Nowadays this concept might be modified toward to develop new a way of military education within or outside the Zrínyi Miklós National Defense University.

When we are talking about the factors, influencing the concept of military education the relationship between the reform of the armed forces and the reform of the military educational system is expedient to underline.

There was an overall concept of strategic overview of the entire national defense system of the Hungarian Republic, issued in 1999 in form of a resolution of the Hungarian Government (No. 2322/1999.) Despite the later amendments the essence of the resolution has remained unchanged, that is as a result of the new structure of the defense forces, the organizations should work more economically, the implementation should cause significant reduction of the personnel, it continuously provides successful execution of actual tasks, it should modernize the secondary and higher military educational system and provide specialists with military skills and knowledge, training for civilian qualifications to outsource to the civilian educational system.

I think, the described resolution of the Government is clear-cut and we need to take it into consideration while sketching our concept for the future.

The Hungarian Government had discussed the situation of the Air Force before the issue of the previously described resolution. On its session held on the 7th of January, 1999 the Government acknowledged the project of the armed forces to provide the operability of the Air Force.

According to paragraph c/9 of this project the Education and Science Department of Hungarian MoD in cooperation with the General Staff and the Air Force's Headquarters had to work out a new concept for training of the aircraft personnel and other related specialists. The topic of the report — which had been ordered to forward until the 30th of April, 1999 — was “The concept for the education of air crews and the ground-based air traffic personnel in the years after 2000.” By some reasons the report remained “on the shelf” but main points of the report are still in power because they are related to the reform of armed forces and to the reform of the military educational system.

The topic of the report has been on a previous programme of the Future Aviation Symposium. Without getting engaged in repetitions, I would like to refer to some of the — today still relevant — points of the report mentioned above.

The most important thing is that after the year of 2000 the need for reinforcements for both the aircrew and ground-based personnel is going to decrease radically. Thus, it is necessary to consider the alternatives of possible solutions concerning the higher education of the different personnel categories. The other significant point is that one of the possible alternatives is the recruitment and employment of young civilians with civilian higher educational diplomas at the air-troops of the HDF's Air Force. The report mentions that after the year of 2000 need might arise for 5-7 persons per year for aircrew, air controller and aviation technician officers. Due to these small numbers enrolment seems to be reasonable every 2-3 years. In connection with the “civilian higher educational diploma + military post-graduate training” variant there is a view according to which this alternative is not usual in Hungary – at

least not at the same time and not with many participants involved. This alternative has not been realised yet. In NATO-member countries, it is an accredited model but the social acknowledgement of the national defence forces and officers is different there (obviously this acknowledgement also varies from one country to another). The essential condition for this type of recruitment is that the moral and financial acknowledgement of the career of an officer should be appealing that is in other words marketable for graduates of civilian colleges and universities.

Here I would like to refer back to the relation of the reform of the armed forces and the military higher education. On its 19 May, 2001 session, the board of the MoD taking the requirements and the effects of the reform of the armed forces into consideration discussed the proposition about “The Execution of the Integration of the Military Higher Educational Institutes and the Modernisation of the Military Higher Education”. The Defence Minister accepted the information, the plan and the schedule of the reform of the military higher education and took measures for a relating MoD order to be issued.

I would like to focus attention on two important factors of the concept.

- One of them is that as a consequence of the rate of the number of officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) determined by the reform of the armed forces the need for number of students in college basic training of officers is increasing. This need for the number of students is decreasing in the case of university basic training. The system of post-graduate and retraining courses that are the consequences of the special military needs of the MOD appears as a new element. This system does not require correspondence with the Higher Educational Law.
- The other element of the concept is that there is a need to examine more thoroughly than before the possibilities of the source of officer reinforcements. The possibilities for relieving the strains on the military higher education in order to free financial resources should be examined. Once freed, these financial resources could make the military higher education more economical, more rational and thus the costs of the officer training could be reduced. The recruitment and the subsequent military training of graduates of civilian higher educational institutes providing necessary training in lower officer ranks need to be institutionalised. (Now I advert to the findings of the 1999 report that pointed forward then and are still relevant today.) The freed financial resources should be used for providing stimulating possibilities that would make the transfer from the civilian sphere more advantageous.

The Szolnok campus of the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University (NDU) fulfils its duties in aircraft personnel training well though not in full scale. We

should add that the Aeronautical Department and the Aviation Technical Institute in Szolnok are entitled to carry out aircraft personnel training under the authority of ZM NDU. At the Szolnok base, there is college basic training in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering and military leadership. Although they are authorised, in the fields of military leadership, helicopter pilot and military aircraft pilot training has not been carried out for years.

I think; based on the previously discussed matters, it is obvious that all the aspects of training of military aeronautical specialists should be reconsidered. A significant step was taken forward, we can witness a pioneering initiative in military aircraft pilot training.

As a consequence of the termination of aircraft pilot training abroad, later in Hungary as well, several years are missing in the course of aircraft personnel training. This phenomenon has a negative impact on the age-rates of the aircraft personnel. At the same time in the forthcoming years the new type of aircraft will come into service the operation of which requires well-trained aviation personnel. The facts mentioned above established the need for the training of military aircraft personnel to be started. Economic analysis show that the conditions for aviation personnel training are not given in Hungary, thus training abroad comes into consideration. Based on the analyses and inspections we can state that it is suitable to take part in the aircraft personnel training provided by the Mutual NATO Aviation Personnel Training Programme in Canada.

The HDF, the HDF Air Force Headquarters (HQ) management plans to solve the problem of reinforcement of military aircraft pilots from the military and the civilian sphere (young people with civilian diplomas). The young aircraft pilot candidates recruited for flying personnel training from the civilian sphere will acquire the military and professional skills necessary for the fulfilment of their first officer assignment in the first phase of the training (the same as it has been with the course-type training of persons with civilian diplomas enrolled as military professional personnel).

What concerns the aeronautical engineering and air controller officer training, I would not like to engage in speculations. In connection with this it is sufficient to refer to the present situation. One of the main tasks mentioned in the task-part of the MoD order about the reform of the military education is the following:

“With regard to the needs of the HDF Air Force HQ, the study of the possibilities and variants of the execution of the officer and NCO professional training for the Air Force. Elaboration of adjoining proposals.”

The deadline for the execution of the present task will expire in the following days. The specialists of the MoD General Staff, HDF Air Force HQ, MoD ESD, MoD Planning and Co-ordination Department and the ZM NDU will take part in

its development. I think, by the execution of the above-mentioned task the next steps of the training of the military aircraft personnel will be clarified.

Arriving at the end of my presentation, finally, I'd like to emphasise, until Air Force exists as the branch of Hungarian Defence Forces, military aircraft personnel training will be necessary for a long period.

The recruitment of military aircraft personnel should be based on those professionals who graduated either at Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University, or come from civilian sphere, that is civilian higher educational institutes.

I think, the conclusion should be the following: Szolnok, with its developed infrastructure, must remain the main educational and training base for military aircraft personnel. Taking into consideration the above mentioned facts and following our progressive traditions, the Future Aviation Symposium can be organised here, in Szolnok next year again.

Finally, I wish successful work for the participants during the symposium. Thank you for attention.