

Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University

Kossuth Lajos Military Science Faculty

Doctorate school



dr. Péter Csery-Szücs Itc./retired/

**The role and significance of arts subject in the military higher education,
with special regard to the legal preparation of commanders in the Zrínyi
Miklós
National Defence University after joining NATO and the European Union**

**Doctoral /PhD/ dissertation
Author's review**

Supervisor: Professor Dr. Dénes Harai col. /ret./

Budapest, 2010

Drafting the academic problem

I defended my university doctoral thesis in 1994 and more than one and a half decade have elapsed since then. Now I wanted to examine how my proposals drawn up in that thesis have been carried out in the field of legal education in the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University, which is the only military higher educational institution in Hungary.

After joining NATO and the European Union the situation in Hungary has changed, we joined the developed western societies. Our economy has also changed, the socialist planned economy was succeeded by the western type capitalist market economy.

Accordingly, we had to change the old social and economic structure, the public administration, the defence forces and last but not least the educational system as well.

After joining the western military alliance, which happened on 12 April 1999, our defence system has changed and since then we have been able to function as a member of a strong political-military alliance. After the EU-accession / 1 May 2004/ we belong to the developed western countries concerning our economy, but to tell the truth we will have to do a lot of things in order to reach the Euro-zone. The Schengen borders established on 1 January 2008 shift more responsibility onto Hungary as the EU border is stretching to the east.

These political, economic, social changes had an influence on the military and the law enforcement organizations, their education and training. Following the Bologna agreement the Hungarian higher education has changed, new educational systems have been formed, and all these changes are reflected in the 2005 CXXXIX. law, respectively in its amendment about the higher education in Hungary. In accordance with these changes the military and law enforcement tertiary education, which is the integral part of the Hungarian education system, have undergone a lot of changes, for example the BSc, MSc and the PhD education have been introduced in the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University.

The military and law enforcement higher education systems are changing and being renewed continuously. Beside the military field of study more and more civil subjects have been introduced, e.g. Writing analytics as a further training, the International studies which is a BA course.

The main aim of the military education is to train such officers into different assignments who are experts in military sciences, have expertise in their professions, highly accomplished in several fields, speak languages, are able to perform their tasks in missions and peace support operations. In compliance with this aim the structure of the subjects, the themes of the military subjects and auxiliary science as well as social sciences have to be changed. Levelling up the legal education and training is also stressed.

One of the basic tasks of the military higher education is to prepare cadets for the peacetime activity of military organizations, for the everyday training as well as for the entire performance of missions and peace operations. In the future Hungary will play more important role in the peace operation in Afghanistan. This obligation is arising from our NATO membership. However, we should not forget the operations in Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. Within the framework of the tertiary education we have to prepare our officers, commanders for the right application of the law, for the permanent maintenance of the rule of law and for maintaining relations with the civilian population.

The main aims of the research and research hypotheses

While writing my doctoral dissertation my aim was to examine the following questions:

1. The role of arts subjects in the military higher education, within that in the legal preparation: what we have to teach in the new situation; forming and continuous adjusting of the education according to the Bologna process.
2. The situation of the commanders' legal preparation in the ZMNDU following the NATO and EU accession. Coordination of the legal education in some allied countries and experience of the international conferences regarding this matter and the military Erasmus.
3. The judgement of the legal education and training in the ZMNDU on the basis of the teachers' and cadets'/students' opinion; those who participated in different international missions were asked about their opinion about the legal preparation of commanders. The need of improvement based on experience.
4. The legal preparation of the personnel capable of carrying modern tasks; the place and the role of the officer in the military who deliberately undertook the discipline and this profession.
5. The necessity of changes concerning the commander's legal preparation and suggestions for the new legal education in the ZMNDU.

My research hypothesis issued in different media is that the NAT cannot fulfil its function in the basic education, the ratio between the arts and real subjects is inadequate, that's why its revision is necessary. I also suppose that the ratio of the arts subjects is not adequate in the higher or the military higher education.

The coordination of the Bologna process at European level has not attained the required level, that's why the realization of the MSc and BSc education in Hungary requires further revise.

In the military tertiary education in accordance with the requirements of the 21st century we should put more emphasis on the legal education in every field and strengthen the teaching staff of the section or department with such lawyers who possess with academic degree.

Research methods

In order to realize my aims I used the following research methods:

1. I studied the different documents in the Military History Archives and Museum, the National Széchenyi Library, in the library of the Parliament as well as in the ZMNDU Central Library. I also read up on the relevant parts of the national and international special literature connected with this topic, diploma theses and dissertations published in this subject, newspapers, journals, rules and regulations, studies, the results and recommendations of the latest researches in order to be more familiar with this question gathering the necessary and reliable data.
2. I studied and analysed the related laws, rules, the relevant training measures, the requirements concerning the subjects, the curriculum, reports on the basis of which I wanted to draw conclusions and put forward my proposals in the field of legal education.
3. I summarized the common and contradictory facts of those documents that I could find and get at, and on the basis of these facts I drew my conclusions.
4. I participated in conferences, symposiums, lectures the theme of which was connected somehow with my research field.
5. I systematized and made use of my knowledge and experience got during my military career.

6. In the course of my dissertation I made a sociological survey of the legal education, the necessity of its improvement as well as I attached the opinions of those people who took part in missions.

In my dissertation I haven't dealt with the legal education of the contract personnel or the NCOs. I only analysed the education of those cadets/ students who participate in the BSc and MSc training.

According to the set research purposes my doctoral dissertation is divided into four chapters:

In the first chapter I deal with the place and role of arts and real subjects in the field of basic education through the higher education. I stress the importance of arts and human subjects in the military higher education, their ratios and roles in the interests of the legal preparation. I analyse how it fits the Bologna process.

The second chapter comprises the situation of the commanders' legal preparation in the ZMNDU following the NATO and EU accession. I analyse and present the legal preparation of the commanders in some NATO and EU countries. I also mention the military Erasmus. I deal with the coordination of the legal education in the allied states, and regarding this matter I examine the experience of international conferences.

In the third chapter I study the legal education and training on the basis of a sociological survey made in the ZMNDU. I mention the legal preparation of the commanders based on the opinions of personnel having taken part in missions. I look over the legal preparation of the personnel who can carry out modern, expeditionary tasks. I analyse the position and role of the officers who deliberately undertook this profession and discipline. In the end I summarise and draw my conclusions from the legal education, training, and then I put forward my proposals for the improvement of the training. In the last chapter I outline my idea about the new university.

In the fourth chapter I justified the specified working theories. I also outline the results obtained during my research. I draw up the new scientific results of my dissertation. Finally, I draft my recommendations which are to be realized in the future, and those ones which have been carried out during my research work.

On the basis of my experience and researches I think that the subject of my dissertation is topical because nowadays we should put more emphasis on the arts subjects, within this on the legal education since the officers capable of carrying out modern, expeditionary tasks have to face more and more legal questions, which have to be solved without the help of legal experts in most cases.

As a result of my research I can state that in the ZMNDU the legal education is of high quality, but in our continuously changing world we have to pay special attention to the legal education so that the Hungarian officers could be more qualified and suitable for performing the national and international tasks.

Summary

Looking over some parts of the curriculum applied in the ZMNDU and analysing the different fields of military studies I was able to form my opinion about the education in the university and the present situation of the legal education. It is essential for the man of 21st century to know the arts studies at high level and put in practice the real sciences. The officers are

considered as intellectuals, what's more they can be key factors irrespectively of their nationalities.

The BSc and MSc education in different national and international military and civil universities and colleges can be much and appropriate help for this knowledge. The education of course should be carried out according to the relevant laws and the Bologna process. The optional majors comprise both arts and real subjects, training elements, but it changes to a great extent whether the degree is an art or real one. In both educational forms the percentage distribution depends according to this, for the benefit of one or another. Those people who take part in the higher education should have expertise in both fields not only in the field of general education, disregarding the fact that the time of polyhistor is over now. "The Hungarian officers have to possess such education which can help them to excel in the Hungarian or the European intellectual elite and cope with everything."

Conclusions

In my dissertation I studied the place and role of arts and real subjects in the military higher education, including the legal education. I found that in the ZMNDU beside the high quality general and special education in my opinion the art education especially in the Bolyai János Military Technical Faculty was pushed into the background. It has to be improved taking into consideration the possibilities.

Results

Relying on the modern military literature available for me, rules and regulations as well as the scientific results of those researchers who did their research on this subject, and taking into consideration that I have spent decades in the military and relying on the collected experience and knowledge, I proved many things drafted in the hypothesis, I have achieved the following scientific results:

1. I justified the importance of the legal education in the ZMNDU, in connection with the requirements of NATO and EU membership and with the data of my empirical survey. I confirmed the necessity of the extension of legal education in every field.
2. I examined the situation of the arts and real subjects in the military higher education, in the first place with reference to the military fields of study. I justified that the ratio was shifted for the benefit of the real sciences and subjects, and in my opinion it has to be changed.
3. I examined the situation of the military higher education in some NATO countries as well as their legal education and I found that within the international law knowledge more stress should be put on the introduction of common legal rules in the education.

Recommendations

This dissertation can be used in the military in the following ways:

1. This dissertation can be used in the military higher education, in the course of the legal education, its review and extension.
2. There is a possibility for comparison of the civil and military legal education, For the survey of the civil legal education, in this way it will be possible to carry out Reforms in all areas of the legal education in the ZMNDU.

I hope that those people who are interested in this subject as well as decision-makers and those ones who determine the future of the HDF and the military higher education will make use of my dissertation in their work.

Nevertheless I must admit that I do not consider my research settled, as the basic education, the higher and the military higher education are continuously changing, refreshing. It has an influence on the arts and real subjects, which are also developing in compliance with the requirements of the 21st century. The increasingly high level military higher education, its research and examination can be continued.

My publications in this subject

Single publication:

1. A parancsnoki joggyakorlat
(Honvéd Tudódk sorozat 27. könyve) Magyar Honvédség Tájékoztatási és Médiaközpont
1998.

Published articles in single publication:

1. A Zrínyi Miklós Nemzetvédelmi Egyetem Egyetemi Könyvtára.
ZMNE Kiadvány 1998. 36-42.p.
2. Az Olib Könyvtári szoftver bemutatása.
ZMNE Kiadvány 1998. 56-63.p.
3. A Zrínyi Miklós Nemzetvédelmi Egyetem Könyvtárának helyzete, kapcsolódása az oktatás folyamatához.
ZMNE Kiadvány 1998. 18-23.p.

Journal articles in the Hungarian moderate journal:

1. Fejezetek a Zrínyi Miklós Katonai Akadémia történetéből. Hallgatói Közlemények 15. szám
1985. Zrínyi Miklós Katonai Akadémia Belső kiadványa 5-19.p.
2. A katonai hivatástudat időszerű kérdései.
Hallgatói Közlemények 19. szám 5-31.p. ZMKA Belső Kiadvány
3. Egy felmérés és annak tapasztalatai a hivatástudat fejlesztésével kapcsolatban a ZMKMF-en. Hallgatói Közlemények 20. szám 77-89.p. ZMKA Belső Kiadványa
4. A parancsnoki joggyakorlat területei és az arra való felkészítés a katonai tanintézetekben.
Új Honvédségi szemle 1994. 10. szám. 64-71.p.
5. Bemutatkozik a Zrínyi Miklós Nemzetvédelmi Egyetem Könyvtára (Társszerzők: Bakos Klára - Czuthné Garai Ágnes)
Humán Szemle 1997. 4. szám 125-129.p.
6. A testületi szellem és a jog.

Társadalom és Honvédelem 2006. 2. szám. 155-158.p.

7. A nemzeti és a szövetségi jogszabályok integrálásáról
HADTUDOMÁNY 2006. 4. szám 50-51.p.

Journal articles in a foreign moderate journal:

1. Thoughts on legal education in military higher education. AARMS. 2008. Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University. 721-727. pp.

Curriculum Vitae

I was born on 19 September 1951. I attended the primary and secondary school in Budapest. I got my degree in Air Defence Artillery, in the Zalka Máté Military Technical College. In 1986 I graduated from the Zrínyi Miklós Military Academy. I graduated in law in Szeged, in 2007.

I served in different assignments in the Hungarian Mass Army and in the Hungarian Defence Forces. I served as a platoon commander, deputy battalion commander, a leader at regimental level and a commander at brigade level. From 1988 I worked in the Zrínyi Miklós Military Academy, in the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University. I worked in the Registry, later I was the director of the University Library, I worked in the Rector's office and as an MA of the vice president. I retired from this position on 28 December 2006.

I have a language certificate at basic level in German and in Russian I have a certificate at intermediate level. In connection with my subject I published 13 articles and studies, and one article in English.

I gave a lot of lectures, e.g. The information system of the military science /1997/, Presentation of the OLIB library software /1998/, Obligations of the state and individual rights /2004/.

I reviewed three diploma theses and a dissertation, and once I was a committee member when a PhD dissertation was defended.

I was and am a member of many scientific and social organizations, e.g. the member of the Hungarian Military Science Association, the TIT Military Science and Security policy Association, the Hungarian Military Law Association....

I got my certificate in the ZMNDU Military Science Doctorate School on 13 July 2007.

dr. Péter Csery-Szúcs
Ltc. /retired/