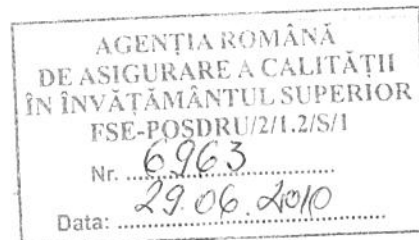


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**EXTERNAL EVALUATOR'S REPORT FOR ARACIS
OF THE „HENRI COANDA” AIR FORCE ACADEMY BRASOV, ROMANIA
June 2010**

Introduction

I was appointed as Foreign External Evaluator of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (hereon referred to as ARACIS) and I was subsequently invited to join the evaluation team for the institutional accreditation process of HENRI COANDA” AIR FORCE ACADEMY (hereon referred to as Academy) in Brasov – Romania, held between 23 and 25 June, 2010. I received from ARACIS in advance via Internet the "Internal Institutional Evaluation Report", a self-assessment prepared by AFA in English, containing 60 pages and 92 Annexes; it gave me necessary preliminary information about the military institution. I arrived in Brasov on the 22. of June 2010 where I was met with other members of ARACIS team.

The auditing took place between Wednesday, the 23th of June, and Friday, the 25th of June, 2010. The evaluation team consisted of the following members:

- **Prof. IVĂNESCU Mircea, PhD.** – Craiova University – Mission Director
- **Prof. Hadăr Anton, PhD.** – Bucharest Technical University – Mission Coordinator
- **Lect. Radu Sebastian, PhD.** – Braşov „Transilvania“ University– Scientific Secretary
- **Prof. Lazăr Ioan, PhD.** – Cluj Babes Bolyai University – Institutional Commission Expert
- **Prof. Solomon Gheorghe, PhD.** – Bucharest Technical University – Consulting Commission Expert
- **Prof. Postolea Dan, PhD.** – Bucharest Military Technical Academy – Military Expert

- **Prof. Eng. Sopóci Milan PhD.**– Armed Forces Academy Liptovsky Mikulas Slovakia – Foreign Expert
- **Prof. Crişan Silviu PhD.** – Sibiu „Lucian Blaga” University – Study Programme “Organization Management” – Study Programme Expert
- **Prof. Manole Victor, PhD.** – Bucharest Academy of Economy Studies – Study Programme “Aviation Management” - AP – Study Programme Expert
- **Prof. Dragalina Alexandru, PhD.** – Constanţa Navy Academy Study Programme “Air Traffic Management” – AP – Study Programme Expert
- **Gavra Alina** – Timisoara West University – Student Evaluator
- **Simion Ilie Constantin** – Bucharest Technical University– Student Evaluator

The "HENRI COANDA" AIR FORCES ACADEMY was represented by the Commandant - Rector Cdor Prof. **Gabriel-Florin MOISESCU**, PhD., the Vice-Rector for Academics, LtCol. Prof. Eng. **Marian PEARSICA**, PhD., the Vice-Rector for Science, Cpt. cdor. Prof. Eng. **Mircea BOSCOIANU**, PhD., the Dean Of the Aeronautical Management Faculty, Assoc. Prof. Eng. **Doru LUCULESCU**, PhD., the local coordinator and the contact person for the team of evaluators, the Scientific Secretary of the Senate , Prof. Eng. **Ion DINESCU**, PhD. and the Scientific Secretary of the Faculty, Assoc. Prof. Eng. **Lavinia Gavrila**, PhD. also participated.

The evaluation process began on **Wednesday**, the 23rd of June at 9 AM. The Commandant – Rector of the Academy introduced to mission members the Academy leaders, the study programme representatives and the student representatives. The meeting continued with introductory statements of the mission from Prof. **HADAR Anton**, PhD who also introduced the members of the evaluation team. Then, the Commandant – Rector of the Academy welcomed the evaluation team and in presentation introduced Air Force Academy – education, science activity, management AFA and other important activity. Between 10.00 and 10.30 the group of experts received organizational details. After that we started with the partial visit of the Academy’s campus. The library, multimedia room, faculty auditorium, sports centre, mess hall, student accommodation. We had the chance to see the main teaching facilities, laboratories for military sciences, military instructors, management, language training centre, improvement of organizational capacities, stability and support, public administration, management of technical systems, electro techniques, mechanical engineering, weapon systems, informatics , military communication, computer centre, and we can occasion to discuss with teachers and instructors about their scientific and pedagogical achievement. I recognized that teachers are genuine professionals in their branches. On the other hand I could

compare military laboratories AFA with laboratory in others military academies and I can confirmate that they are very similar, with same equipment.

From 15.30 to 18,00 I participated in the evaluation of the study programme „Organization Management” with other experts. It was very interesting for me , because my Management department , Armed Forces Academy covers the study program with same name „Management of military organization”. I recognized that contents these programs is different no more than 10 % and it is full convenient for introduced specializations Air Forces.

At 6,00 PM we had the last meeting of the first day with all students of AFA. The interactive discussion concerned personal activities of students outside of daily military routine, voluntary activities in the Academy structures, like the Senate or the Council. The discussion was open and critical with recommendations to improvement. The students discussed the educational process in the Academy and answered questions of the mission members. I was able to ask my questions in English and the students demonstrated good knowledge of the language. I was satisfied with the reaction and answers of the students where I could see future leaders. My main impression was very positive.

The evaluation team continued the evaluation process on **Thursday**, the 24th of June from 09.00 until 11.30 in order to work on different aspects of the study programme evaluation and institutional evaluation with study programme guarantees and students. As Foreign Expert Evaluator, I was responsible for establishing an overview of the whole University. I was allowed to move freely around the campus, to talk to personnel members and students of the University.

From 11,30 until 13,30 evaluated team participated on meeting with the employers of the graduates of the „Henri Coanda” Air Force Academy from Brasov. I was impressed by the existing close efforts between the employers and the top academic management. Participation two generals, some colonels was surprise for me. The top management of General Staff and units actively discussed the problems and opportunities of the Academy’s future development. The employers stated that the Bachelor study programmes determined demands of military units according to modules. Generally theoretical fields of the academic education correspond to the civilian higher education. The Chief of the Educational Department within the MND underlined the meaning of unit commanders, the fact that the present academic educational system is good because the quality of students is getting better every year. According with my survey and personal feelings, I would like to stress the fact that the Academy keeps an extremely good level of quality regarding the university education and military training tradition, combining both theoretical university education and military demands for skill and behaviour. From 13,30 to 14,30 evaluated team partipated on meeting with students who graduated in last 10 years. The discussion was very similar the first and confirmed previous conclusions and opinions.

The same day, in the afternoon, I continued my work with discussions on the "Internal Institutional Evaluation Report" with the professors of the Academy. Additionally, I received essential help from the responsible Vice-Rectors discussing many items described in the "Internal Institutional Evaluation Report" of the Academy.

The evaluation process continued on **Friday**, the 25th of June with handling and checking out draft reports for the preparation of official reports – Synthetic report of the study programmes including SWOT analysis with recommendations prepared during students meeting and synthesized by ARACIS team with regard on weaknesses, strengths, opportunities and threats. At last the team of experts prepared the draft report on the institutional evaluation. The entire evaluation process was supported in a collegial, open and friendly manner and help from the Academy's personnel.

The final directorial meeting with the expert evaluation team, the Academy's leading staff and student representatives were held on Friday between 12,00 and 13,30. The director of the mission stated that all activities of the evaluating programme were successfully accomplished with very good results, on schedule, with openly performed discussions of the Academy's personnel and students in both areas of institutional and programme study evaluation. He checked evaluators according to their tasks. Evaluating activities were already finished at this point and there are very good reported.

The evaluators presented that the curriculum is very efficiently effected and shaped with complexity between study programmes and military teaching. In the institutional evaluation all activities of top management and employers considered all managing aspects with appropriate quality culture and contribution for academic progress. The evaluation of students' activities showed broad opportunities allowing full engagement. Scientific laboratories are at an excellent didactical level and have logistic support. The Academy has good conditions with clear perspectives concerning the military part of study, created by instructors, in the present extent of 40% of the study programme. The internal report of the Academy was appreciated from correct and validated data that allowed the positive work of the commission and checked progress in the Academy. In power of the Academy mainly quality performance improvement in education helped to keep the reached level. I would like to mention that the scientific quality of papers enhanced via innovative measures taken in the period 2008-2009 and it was very effective. I found the merging proposal interesting and I consider that the implementation of ECTS will be effective for the military training programme and important for the exchange of students. The director of the commission thanked for the good work regarding the evaluation.

The Commandant - Rector of the Academy stressed that the main task, to build up officers with university education is considered and he welcomes the recommendations evaluation team.

General Statements

The “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy is an accredited military institution, a legal entity with juridical personality, which functions in compliance with the provisions of the Romanian Constitution, the Education Law, the Teaching Staff Statute, the Romanian Government Decisions, the Orders of the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport, the Orders of the Ministry of National Defence, the University Charter, as well as the stipulations of the Bologna Convention.

The „Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy is a higher education institution of the Ministry of National Defence, whose **fundamental mission** is to train licentiate officers in the field of „*Military Sciences and Intelligence*” for the Air Force Staff, other branches of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of the Administration and Interior, as well as other beneficiaries.

The Academy’s mission of higher education is carried out by means of didactic and scientific research activities, the specific components being detailed in the institutional self assessment report.

In relation to the international background, the Academy’s mission is to train Air Force and Army officers that will participate in international missions carried out in cooperation with NATO member states.

Academy got its legal status as Higher Education Institution through the foundation documents Government Decision no 616 issued on 11th August 1995 under the name of the Aviation and Air Defence Academy, and receiving the patronymic of “Henri Coandă” on 22nd April 1996 on the basis of the Presidential Decree no 71.

Since August 2000, the institution has been referred to as the „Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy following the Government Decision no 696 issued on 17th August 2000, based on the General Staff Decision no G2/8 issued on 3rd August 2000 regarding the structure of the Romanian Armed Forces in peace time.

In compliance with the Government Decision no 1093 issued on 30th September 2009, on the modification and completion of the Government Decision no 749/2009, the three-year licentiate study programmes „Aviation Management” and „Air Traffic Management” (180 CST) were granted temporary authorization.

In 2006 (G.D. no 1175 /2006) the “Organization Management” study programme was reorganized as a full-time three-year programme (180 CST) as a result of implementing the “Bologna system”.

Presently, within the Aeronautic Management Faculty of the “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy, the following licentiate study programmes related to the field of “Military Sciences and Intelligence” are coordinated:

1. „Organization Management”- full-time studies, three years, ACCREDITED, 180 CST;

2. „Aviation Management” - full-time studies, three years, TEMPORARILY AUTHORIZED, 180 CST;
3. „Air Traffic Management” - full-time studies, three years, TEMPORARILY AUTHORIZED, 180 CST.

Management and Administration

The positions of the “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy organizational chart are filled with personnel that professionally correspond to the requirements of the various job descriptions. The institution provides the frame for the 4 departments of the Aeronautical Management Faculty (Department of Fundamentals, Department of Electronics and Informatics, Department of Military and Management Science, Department of Specialized and Basic Military Training), the Department for Educational Science, the Academy Publishing House, the Academy Library, and the students’ Battalion. Also, within the structure of the “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy there are 3 Centres of scientific research subordinated to the Vice-Rector (the commander’s representative for scientific research).

The “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy is lead by the Academy’s Senate, and the Aeronautical Management Faculty is headed by the Faculty’s Council. The two bodies represent academic leadership according to legal stipulations.

The personnel fulfilling positions of leadership (Academy Senate, Faculty Council and department office) are elected through secret vote according to the law and the University Charter. The methodology for organizing the election of academic leaders in the “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy refers to these matters.

The leader of academic and administrative activities within the institution is Commander Professor Gabriel-Florin MOISESCU PhD., appointed by the Defence Ministry’s Decree 822/21.08.2008. The academic rank of professor allows the commander of the Academy to fill in the position of the Rector and there are elected by the Senate of the university according to its methodology.

Teaching Staff

The situation of the teaching positions of "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy, for the academic year 2009-2010 including all specialties, is shown statistically as follows:

The total number of teaching positions: 59 (45 university teaching positions: 8 - professors, 8 - associate professor, 15 - lecturers / paper coordinators, 14 - assistant professors and 14 military instructors), representing 100%.

Facilities

The assets for the teaching process, scientific and military research (classrooms and their fittings, living quarters, mess halls, instruction fields, etc.) belong to the Ministry of National Defence and are submitted for use and administration to the Academy by the Ministry's Properties and Infrastructure Board through the transfer protocol. The "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy has a modern plenary hall corresponding to present standards. It is 450 square meters and has room for 230 seats. The "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy is equipped with 33 laboratories fitted with equipment specific of the specialized subjects where laboratory activity is carried out for the subjects and specialized courses present in the syllabus. Laboratory practice is carried out based on instructions on individual work stands available for each student to complete the required tasks and experiments. The two laboratories where applications of the particular subjects are carried out in the field of Informatics are both fitted. Specialized training (flying) for the students in Aviation trained for the Air Force General Staff is carried out on IAK 52 airplanes and the training for the students in Aviation trained for the Internal Affairs Ministry is accomplished on IAR 316 B helicopters. Students specializing in Antiaircraft Missiles and Artillery - to be commissioned by the Air Force and the Land Force - are trained on equipment belonging to the Academy which consists of automatic antiaircraft guns with calibres of 30 and 57 mm and the radio-technical fire unit.

A part of the practice classes take place in the military unit UM 01700 Brasov where training is carried out on modern equipment like Oerlikon and CA 95.

The library of the Academy is a structure specialized in conveying scientific and cultural information contributing to the instruction, education and formation process as well as the process of scientific research within the Academy. The surface of the library is 274 square meters of which 224 represents storage space for the books and 80 square meters is allotted for the two reading rooms. The structure of the library holdings is presented in tables 1.

The Academy can offer high standard accommodation for 420 cadets, in an adequate, newly furnished hostel. This cadet accommodation facility is to be found within the Academy. It was largely renovated throughout the years 2005-2009. The renovation process is still going on and it will be over this year.

Table 1. The development of the library holdings.

Name of collection	Existing holdings on 01.01.1999 [No. of copies]	Expansion of holdings in 2000-2010 [No. of copies]	Eliminated documents in 2000-2010 [No. of copies]	Existing holdings in April 2010 [No. of copies]
Scientific collections and university text books	26.297	31.946	16.899	41.344
Unclassified military collections	7.080	20.288	21.452	5.916
Classified military collections	7.526	8.514	11.627	4.413
Romanian and world literature	16.985	984	497	17.472
TOTAL	57.888	61.732	50.475	69.145

Another facility of “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy is the mess hall. The mess hall is equipped and framed according to the requirements. It includes two meal serving halls that seat up to 500 people. The mess hall provides meals for the students of the Academy and of the Main Foreign Language Learning Centre, the Academic Staff and other categories of personnel. The sports base of “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy ensures the progress of physical training classes for students and military personnel, which are scheduled according to the job description and training plans, as well as the progress of leisure sport activities. The sports base consists in the following characteristics and equipment: one 520 m² gymnasium, which provides optimum conditions for playing handball, basketball, volleyball, and tennis, one 84 m² fitness centre, with modern equipment, and fields for lawn tennis, handball and soccer. Martial arts initiation and skill development activities also take place in the gym hall. For the basic military training of the future officers, “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy is authorised to use the military camp at Tărlungeni, in the county of Brasov. The military camp is the property of the Ministry of Defence and offers 45 training sites and accommodation in Tărlungeni.

The situation summary on rooms available for educational purposes on the premises of "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy is as follows:

- Lecture rooms (number / total area) = 8 / 952 m²

- Seminar rooms (number / total area) = 10 / 366 m²
- Laboratories and specialized rooms (number / total area) = 34 / 1610 m²
- Library rooms (number / total area) = 8 / 304 m²
- Sport halls (number / total area) = 2 / 604 m²

Financial resources

The Academy has its own income and expense budget for higher education. The money allocated by the Ministry of Defence is used for ensuring the development of the educational process as well as for accommodation, rations, and students' equipment. The budgetary credits assigned are employed according to the provisions regarding the economic and functional classification of expenses. By account of the decisions made in the commander's (rector's) work meetings, there is a constant cooperation among the departments of the Academy in order to ensure the most effective use of material assets and funds.

Cadets

The cadets of „Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy are young (boys and girls) enrolled in the Academy by legal provisions. The training and military education students costs. are supported by the Romanian state.

Selection and registration of candidates to the admission contest are made through information- recruitment Offices of the Selection and Guidance Zonal Centres of the Ministry of National Defence. Admission exam takes place in the Air Force Academy, and only the candidates that got “ACCEPTED” at the preliminary selection tests conducted in regional centres for selection and guidance of the Ministry of National Defence participate.

Admission includes an eliminatory stage and a knowledge test, sustained in accordance with the acceptance strategy in the Academy, as follows:

- *Stage I: English Language (written)*, eliminatory stage, with 15% share in the average admission grade;
- *Stage II: Mathematics. Psychology (written)*, has a share of 75% in the average admission grade.

Academy students can graduate in one academic year a single year of study.

Students pass the academic year if they have the school situation completed in all subjects and obtain at least 5 (five) at the exams, colloquia and at least 7 (seven) to "Soldierly Behaviour".

Research activities

In the "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy, scientific research activities are performed following the research plans at academy / faculty level and departments, the research plans for a year ahead and the annual ones being adopted by the Faculty Council and the University Senate, scientific research activity has distinct characteristics, but complementary to educational process and activities of scientific interest for the Air Force General Staff.

The University Senate examined and adopted the "Perspective plan of scientific research of the "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy for 2008-2013.

The Academy published the scientific research results through the publication, „Review of the Air Force Academy”, ISSN: 1842-9236, in English language. The scientific magazine is issued at the Air Force Academy Publishing House, which is accredited by CNCISIS, code 288. Currently the classification level of the „Review of the Air Force Academy” scientific magazine is „B+” magazine indexed in international databases.

In the publishing house of this institution, is also issued the Air Force Academy Scientific Bulletin, ISSN 2067-0850, which started its annual appearance in since 1998, until 2006. Starting with 2009, the Scientific Bulletin appeared in a new format that meets the current standards (papers published in English, international scientific committee, census work of specialists in the field).

Scientific research is organized and conducted by projects and assignments, funded or unfunded, included in research plans of the academy, faculty, departments, research centres, etc... Scientific and technological research conducted in the academy fit in the following categories:

- a) fundamental research;
- b) applied research;
- c) technological development, composed of pre-competitive research and competitive research;
- d) innovation;
- e) testing and assessment development;
- f) development of operational systems.

Annually, the Academy organizes national scientific sessions of students "AFASTUD" and international scientific conference "AFASES .

Quality management

Quality assurance system of educational services in the Air Force Academy represents all university policies and strategies, procedures, powers and responsibilities, adopted by the academic senate and applied by the ones involved.

The "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy politics of ensuring a high quality educational process in the institution, aims to focus synergistic effect of all human resources - managerial and teaching staff, auxiliary teaching staff, and administrative - to develop a culture of quality in planning, organizing, conducting, controlling and guiding, as appropriate, all activities, at the reference standards, performance indicators and indicators of excellence.

In accordance with laws and regulations in force, and military regulations, in the Academy it was established the Committee for Quality Evaluation and Assurance (CEAC) whose membership was discussed and approved by the Senate.

CONCLUSIONS

The "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy, unique by its identity, by training graduate officers in the field of "Military Sciences and Information", the specialties of " Organization Management ", "Aviation Management" and "Air Traffic Management", proves good functionality, being focused on concrete specific and general objectives.

I appreciate that the educational spaces of "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy - lecture rooms, seminar rooms and specialized rooms, laboratories, library rooms - meet the standards for developing a high quality formative-instructive and educational process, according to the higher education requirements level. There is constant concern with materials development, in accordance with the modernization of laboratory equipment, by efficiently placing the appropriations for education.

The academic teaching staff, the military trainers, as well as the material and financial resources of "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy ensure the running of the three programs of licence studies at a high quality level. There is further the possibility to hire other academic teaching staff and to develop the necessary logistics.

"Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy sustains long-term cooperation with universities and military academies of Romania and abroad, in the fields of education, scientific research, improvement of teacher training and student mobility.

In order to increase the quality level of the educational process, "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy aims I recommend to develop next following objectives:

- developing the educational offer, by initiating legal proceedings for the organization of two masters programmes "*Airspace security*" and "*Management of Air Force Combat Systems*", both for the Romanian and foreign military environment as well as for the civilian environment,
- developing of education for other components state and public sphere,

- make available internet network for students in free time (in area of accommodation),
- interconnection academic library with other high school libraries by information network,
- participation to program Erasmus and extend mobility of students and teachers (establish teaching some subjects in English language foreign teachers),
- involvement, to a greater extent, of the teaching staff and the students, in scientific research projects and programmes, funded by national and international funds,
- modernize education – training base , equipment and weapons systems with collaboration Ministry of Defence and General Staff.

Based on the facts of Internal Evaluation Report and my personal observation, I highlight that the Air Forces Academy is able to adequately perform the university education and military tasks.


I recommend to accord the qualifier: full confidence

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my special thanks to ARACIS for the trust and the opportunity to participate in this institutional evaluation process in Romania. Personally for me it was very fruitful to compare activities with those of the Armed Forces Academy, in which institutional accreditation I have participated. Also much gratitude to my colleagues from the evaluation team for their professional, open and gentle way in which the audit was conducted.

I would like also to express my thanks to the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Dean and the entire staff of Air Forces Academy for the pleasant and open atmosphere and the kind support during my visit in Brasov.

Brasov 25. June 2010


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