

## **THE “HENRI COANDĂ” AIR FORCE ACADEMY – FACING NEW CHALLENGES**

The year 2007 represents a new opportunity for the “Henri Coanda” Air Force Academy to demonstrate management and execution skills in organizing and carrying out activities that are specific of an efficient educational process.

The above statement is based on results already gained, but also on those that are due to come, some complex ones, that require the training of a great number of personnel as well as the use of important material and financial resources.

I cannot continue these lines without expressing my satisfaction regarding the way tasks have been carried out by the entire personnel of our Academy before this year, a fact, which was also notified and appraised by the Defense Control Committee through the grade given after their inspection - “very good”. This honors us, but it should also stimulate us.

The good management performance of the personnel assigned for the various tasks has been demonstrated throughout, by a correct development of the educational process, the organization of the Students’ Scientific Conference in April, and the organization of the Teachers’ International Scientific Conference in May, this year, both of which took place in our location. The wide participation of students and teachers from other military institutions, in our country and overseas, is the proof of the prestige that we enjoy on both national and international scales. Obviously, we rejoice in this, but it should also provide an incentive to open our gates to national and international academic institutions, be they military or civilian.

Since we are speaking of an international academic environment, the experience exchange of our teachers and students this year with similar institutions in the Netherlands and the USA should also be mentioned, especially since these were occasions to meet representatives from most NATO member countries.

Thus, in March 18-24, this year, a delegation of our Academy consisting of Lt. Alexandru Roman and students Mădălina Petrescu, Marius Costin and Andrei Zaharia visited the Dutch Royal Military Academy in Breda, where they met the representatives of 14 countries. Also this year, in April 15-22, another delegation of ours, consisting of Lt. Marius Bucurică and students Violeta Duloiu, Ciprian Negru, Lucian Boghean and Andrei Blagu carried out an experience exchange at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, USA on the event of “International Week”. These were opportunities for our students to contact counterparts from other countries, experience the training methods employed with future officers overseas and proved to be dignified envoys of our country among the representatives from other NATO members.

Besides the above mentioned we should also consider the visits paid by delegations of foreign military structures. The conclusions drawn throughout these activities have been analyzed and the useful findings, the ones applicable to the specificities of the education in our academy, will certainly be employed in our curriculum and academic management.

The flight training of aviation students and the practical training at the units of students of artillery and air-to-ground missiles, all highly significant activities, have been

the main preoccupation of instructors and commanders from the beginning of this year. We are convinced, that the measures that have been taken to organize these activities will be rewarded with excellent results.

The year 2007 brings a significant increase of the schooling rate, a fact which requires supplementary measures in our management compared to previous years regarding graduation – higher number admitted – as well as preparing and carrying out the entrance exam of 2007-2008.

It is in this context, that we should mention the initiative of the Educational Organization and Scientific Research Section to popularize the Academy among the young in secondary schools, military and civilian. This has been met with great enthusiasm by teachers and military instructors like: Associate prof Doru Luculescu, PhD, Lecturer Gheorghe Radu, Lecturer Diana Ilișoi, PhD, Cpt cdr Adrian Sava, Lt col Dumitru Dinu, Cpt Sorin Nicolae Nistor, etc. We should add to these the visits of military high schools passionately undertaken by Lt col eng Horatiu Șuțu and Mr eng Liviu Țintea.

Other activities like the presentation of admittance criteria on the site of the Academy, the distribution of brochures and the magazine of the Academy, our presence at book fairs and other events where we can popularize our institution, offer us a warranty that in the fall we are going to have highly knowledgeable students with a significant theoretic background accumulated during high school. This will allow us to develop true professionals needed by the Air Force Major Staff and other categories of the Military.

Obviously, license exams are an occasion for us to assess our activities, to determine whether our educational plans and curricula have been successful, and if the result of our efforts corresponds to the Model of the graduate and the social command stated by our beneficiaries.

The fall of 2007 will bring into our yard many former students of our institution who are celebrating a number of years from their graduation. Such events offer them an opportunity to meet again, to ascertain the progress we have made throughout the years. They are welcome, since all of them have been our teachers, commanders or colleagues in units all over the country.

Our deeds and our results prompt us to believe that the end of the year 2007 will bring further positive appreciation of our activities from higher echelons and will constitute a solid ground towards the year 2008.

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