Leadership & Ethics: Adapting Military Ethics to Modern Warfare

28 – 29 April 2025, Sibiu

Organized by:

"Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces Academy, Sibiu

"Carol I" National Defence University, Bucharest

Institute for Political Studies of Defence and Military History, Bucharest

Conference Venue:

"Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces Academy, Sibiu, Romania.

Aim:

The conference addresses the current challenges in military professional ethics within the leadership framework, particularly focusing on the shift from out-of-area operations to collective defence and large-scale operations. The objective is to ascertain operational and educational needs for the integration of military professional ethics within the armed forces.

This forum convenes ethicists, military leaders, practitioners, and academics from NATO and PfP countries to explore operational and educational deficiencies in professional military ethics arising from the present and anticipated security environment.

Programme

27 April 2025 – Arrival

Throughout the Day: Arrival of participants at Sibiu International Airport.

- Transportation to accommodation provided at the "Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces Academy.

Evening: Icebreaker.

28 April 2025

0830-0900: Welcoming Coffee and Registration

0900-0915: **Opening Session**

Welcome Address by Conference Organizers:

- o Commandant, "Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces Academy.
- o Commandant, "Carol I" National Defence University.
- o Director, Institute for Political Studies of Defence and Military History.

0915-0930: **Romanian Land Forces Staff Address**

0930-1000 Keynote Speech: "Ethical Leadership in Modern Military Operations: Challenges and Opportunities"

1000-1015: Official Photo

1015-1130: Panel 1 – NATO PfP Leadership & Ethics Reference Curriculum

This panel focuses on the implementation of the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) Leadership & Ethics Reference Curriculum. Discussions will explore best practices, operational challenges, and strategies for harmonizing ethical training across member states.

- o What is the professional military ethics? Do we have a common understanding across nations?
- o What are the most critical elements of the NATO PfP Leadership & Ethics Reference Curriculum?
- o How can NATO member states and PfP nations standardize ethical training to meet operational needs? What challenges arise in adapting the curriculum to diverse national contexts?

1130-1200: Coffee Break

1200-1315: Panel 2 – Leader and Character Development. Ethical Background of Future Leaders

This panel explores how to cultivate an ethical mindset in future officers, emphasizing the importance of integrating ethical considerations into decision-making processes from the start of military training. Discussions will focus on the moral frameworks and educational methods necessary for ethical leadership.

- o What ethical principles should form the foundation of leadership training for future officers?
- o How can military academies incorporate ethical reasoning into their curricula effectively?
- o What role do mentorship and real-world case studies play in developing ethical competence?

1315-1430: Lunch

1430-1600: Panel 3 – Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers: Command Team - An Ethical Partnerships

This panel discusses the importance of ethical education in fostering collaboration between officers and non-commissioned officers. Topics include trust-building, role differentiation, and ethical leadership in joint operations.

- o How can the SNCO secure an ethical partnership with junior officers as part of the command team
- o How can ethical training enhance the partnership between officers and NCOs?
- o What mechanisms can improve ethical decision-making in hierarchical relationships?
- o How can leaders foster a culture of ethical accountability across ranks?

1900: Official Conference Dinner

29 April 2025

0900-0945: Keynote Speech: "New Technology and War"

0945-1015: Coffee Break

1015-1130: Panel 4 – Ethics of Emerging Military Technologies and their Impact on the Use of Force

This panel examines the ethical implications of integrating technologies like AI, autonomous systems, and cyber capabilities into military operations. Topics include the balance between innovation and human oversight and the challenges of accountability in technologically advanced conflicts.

- What ethical frameworks are needed to govern the use of AI and autonomous systems in military operations?
- How can leaders ensure human accountability when using advanced technologies in warfare?
- What are the key ethical challenges in adapting the use of force to hybrid and unconventional warfare?

1130-1200: Implementing NATO PfP Reference Curricula into military education

1200-1300: Lunch

1300-1415: **Panel 5 – The Ethical Dimension of Civil-Military Relations**

This panel addresses the ethical responsibilities of military leaders in their interactions with civilian counterparts. Topics include transparency, trust, and maintaining professional boundaries in civil-military cooperation.

- What ethical considerations should guide military leaders in their interactions with civilian authorities and organizations?
- How can military institutions ensure clear and effective communication with civilian stakeholders?
- What lessons can be drawn from past failures in civil-military relations?

1345-1415: Closing Session

1600-1900: Visit of Astra Museum/ Guided Tour of Medieval Sibiu

---

30 April 2025 – Departure

Throughout the Day: Transportation to Sibiu International Airport provided by organizers.

Last update: 13 February 2025