



## A HUNDRED YEARS OF HIGHER ECONOMIC EDUCATION IN THE LOGISTICS OF THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES

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The article is the result of scientific research regarding the emergence and evolution of the higher economic education in the Logistics of the Romanian Military.

The article contains the documentary sources that support the emergence and evolution of this type of education and the testimonies of those who carried out the historical acts of its foundation and evolutionary transformation.

**Keywords:** historic source; military tradition; higher economic education; administration; logistics; evolution; decisive role.

The higher economic education in the logistics of the Romanian military has a distinct place in the panoply of military education, today marking one hundred years of existence.

The sources of this type of education are considered:

• *The High Order No. 29 of February 1, 1861 (n.n. - published in the Monitor of the Military No. 11 of February 16 of the same year), the year in which the Military Intendance Corps is organized and not the Military Intendance, as it is often wrongly stated, which had already appeared in the Military of Moldavia by „Order 24 of the Moldovan Shaman of April 27, 1857<sup>1</sup>.*

• *The High Decree no. 202 of October 9, 1862, decree regulating the organization of the new Ministry of War in Romania. According to that decree, the reorganization of the ministry provided for the Military Administration as a new structure having the composition of a “Directorate 2, general administration”<sup>2</sup>.*

In November 1862, the recruitment of combatants and administration officers from the Romanian military of those who wanted to join the

Military Intendance Corps and who had to take an admission exam began. Once admitted to the corps they needed thorough economic training, according to the requirements of a modern army<sup>3</sup>.

Taking into account the new requirements in the field of defense and taking the necessary lessons from the 1916-1918 campaign of the Great War and the establishment of the Romanian National Unitarian State, in 1918 the Superior War School was reorganized, and within its framework, one year later, through the High Decree no. 4729 of November 10, 1919, published in the Official Gazette no. 167/1919, a Section of Intendance was set up<sup>4</sup>.

The Minister of War<sup>5</sup> of that time, in his report to the Sovereign, motivated the project as follows: “*In order to be able to prepare in the future a corps of officers with broader general knowledge and special military knowledge, well assimilated to the body of General Staff, there was a need to set up a Department of Intendance under the aegis of the Superior War School.*”<sup>6</sup>

In the Royal Decree establishing the Intendance Section, it was stated, “*In order to prepare for the future an officer corps of intendance with the widest general knowledge and with solid specialized knowledge, the need to establish an intendance department near the Superior War School was felt.*”<sup>7</sup>

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The duration of the education was of two years having as subjects of study: *“accounting; financial mathematics; commercial law with notions of civil and administrative law; political and national economy; finance; statistics; operations; industrial and food chemistry; legislation and military administration in the smallest details; subsistence service in the campaign; general overview of the military history with special education revealed in the supply of armies and the functioning of the subsistence service; special course of organization; economic and political geography; special General Staff course; notions of topography; Universal History and History of Romanians; Romanian literature and logic; special course in applied sciences in the military; international public law.”*<sup>8</sup>

On the basis of the afore mentioned Royal Decree, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December of the same year, the first entrance examination was held in the newly established section, with 22 candidates admitted out of 33 who had signed in.

In the Journal of the Intendance and Administration of the Military no. 6 of 1923, the Intendant General Leonte State wrote: *“For the way we conducted our services in war, the acts and the history of the campaign will show in time our truth and our daily efforts, that the martyrs of the motherland will have given their lives, especially in that corner of Moldova where millions of Romanian souls, soldiers and citizens, old people and children were saved – I can say – by the work of the administration and the intendance, invested with all the moral credit and with all the power by the most appropriate of governments, which was the government of the nation itself.”*<sup>9</sup>

Yet, as the division general Ion Stângaciu wrote in the Journal of the Intendance and Administration of the Military no. 1 of 1925, the decision to establish the Section of Intendance of the Superior War School was a huge step towards improving the status of the officers in the administrative body of the military<sup>10</sup>.

And if the purpose of the Superior War School was to spread higher military knowledge in the military and to provide officers of all branches with a training base for command of the large units and for the selection of General Staff officers, the same goals were for the establishment of the basis of the *Intendance Section in 1919* within the Superior

War School, whose regulation was only to appear in 1931, after in 1928 *this Intendance Section was transformed into a Higher School of Intendance*<sup>10</sup>.

The Regulations of the *Higher School of Intendance*<sup>12</sup> of 1931 showed that the purposes of education were:

a) *the training of the administration officers and combatants who wanted to pass into the Corps of Intendance Officers;*

b) *the ensuring of an adequate training base for the management and control of the Army Administrative Services;*

c) *the election of the officers necessary to the command of the army, in order to lead and control its administrative services.*

However, it should be made clear that the establishment of the *Intendance Section at the Superior War School* was not accomplished because the officers did not show a good preparation during the Great War, but for a better preparation according to those times.

Thus, it can be observed that, 12 years later, the regulation provided for a better adequacy of the study materials to the requirements of those times.

The courses taught were: *“general tactics and General Staff on the functioning of services, information and transport; Intendance service; subsistence service; economic geography; general Accounting; military administration; industrial and food chemistry; military history with lessons related to the military supply and the operation of the Intendance service; topography; administrative law; commercial law; organization; mobilization; finance; business mathematics; political economy; weapons and ammunition; health service; legislation (especially stock exchanges); war fabrication; civil law; international law; riding; fencing; driving the car and motorcycle.”*<sup>12</sup>

Admission to the school was made by competition, which took place every year in April, and the administrator lieutenants and captains, as well as the lieutenants and the combatant captains, who wished to pass to this area, had to fulfill the following conditions:

a) for lieutenant and captain administrators:

- have the “well done” assessment in the yearly evaluation made by all commanding officers;

- have at least 6 years of service as an officer on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which he / she took the admission exam and a 3-year internship in the

corps where he / she had performed the position of accountant in money and goods (fund and material manager) ending with at least one management position;

- be a graduate of the Special School of Administration;

- not be over the age of 31 on April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the exam takes place;

- be completely healthy;

- not have financial debts other than those legally admitted.

b) for lieutenants and combatant captains:

The same conditions as the lieutenant and captain administrators, with the exception that they should have had 3 years of actual service in the branch, of which one year in the capacity of accountant in money or assets (manager of money or material funds) having occupied a management position and having completed the courses of the Special School of the respective branch.

The admission contest was held in Bucharest and consisted of: medical examination; written tests; oral exams; riding. The exam was eliminatory.

The written exams were sealed and they consisted of:

- a paper of military administrative knowledge, lasting 6 hours, from the legislation and military administration, the organization and functioning of the subsistence service, applied in a war situation, as well as the drafting of orders, instructions and reports regarding the supply;

- a work of general knowledge, lasting 5 hours, which consisted of dealing with topics provided in the analytical program of the knowledge necessary to enter the school;

The oral exams consisted of:

- discussions in front of the examination committee on some topics included in the analytical syllabus of the knowledge needed to enter the school;

- knowledge of a foreign language (French or German).

The riding test was given in front of the examination committee and the riding teacher of the school.

However, what prompted the establishment of the Academy of Intendance immediately after the end of the war, in 1919, was the ascertaining and affirming of the overwhelming importance of the Intendance Service for the war, the only one of all

the Military Services that enjoyed this greatness.

Therefore, the establishment of the *Intendance Section* is considered to be the beginning of the higher economic education in the logistics of the Romanian Military<sup>14</sup>.

On the value itself of the Section of Intendance and then of the Higher School of Intendance, we will quote the opinion of a well-known military writer, int. Lt. col. Alexandru Havrileț, who wrote:

*"The Department of Intendance from the Superior War School as well as the Superior School of Intendance into which the Section was transformed, was and is one of the leading institutions of the military.*

*The officers, well noted by their superiors, who succeeded in the entrance contest, received, during the two years of studies, superior military and specialized knowledge".*

*The faculty, military and civilian Faculty of the School, in particular, was and is at the height of its mission.*

*The management of the School has been entrusted from the beginning and up to now, to those leading elements of the military that have led and are still leading the Superior War School, both schools being under the directive and control of the Grand Military General Staff.*

*With such leadership and a highly valued faculty, this school, after graduation by the officers who attended it, can be considered a "military administrative doctorate"<sup>15</sup>.*

In order to be admitted both to the Preparatory School of Officers with a duration of 3 years and to the Special School with a duration of 1-2 years, each candidate, combatant or administrative officer had to enter the competition, mandatory having the internships and at least 8 years in the career of officer. Therefore, there was the possibility that the candidate officer who was present at the admission contest at the Higher School of Intendance, with 4-5 years of studies at the other military schools, might have his studies become equivalent to a bachelor's degree, as well as the graduation of the 2 years of the Higher Stewardship School. Thus one can deduce the role and importance of the studies of the mentioned officers, with the possibility of their equivalence in the field of administrative law or economic sciences.

Yet, the School, no matter how many years of studies it would have and as much knowledge as

it would give to its students, they never came to consider that the recipient of the graduation diploma would no longer need a continuous cultural, general and professional training.

Concerning the continuous training of the intendants officers, the well-known military educator, Int. Lt. col. Voinescu Ioan said to the students of the Higher School of Intendance: *"As a luminous proof that today we live more than ever under the primacy, under the sign of the most solid culture, ... how will you fulfill this imperious command of today's times?"*

*First and foremost, it is a duty of honor, for each of you in such situation, to complete your studies included in a whole cycle of the state school programs. Otherwise you will feel all your life a situation of embarrassment, a state of inferiority, which will press upon you as a shadow in the midst of the general activity in which you will be framed.*

*The prestige of a conscious Faculty is made, but especially maintained, by the prestige of each individual member. Well, this prestige is acquired only when everything is supported by culture.*

*And now the problem I am facing takes on another aspect.*

*You do not owe anything to anyone but to yourself. You have a larger debt, that of the Faculty which you belong to. It is a higher law that unites individuals and generations in a tradition and mission and in which the individual is only what he is according to the spiritual process to which he participates in the group he belongs to. Hence the huge value of tradition for each Faculty formed. Because you have to know that you have no right to spoil anything of the prestige of the Faculty to which so many generations of comrades of all ages added."*<sup>16</sup>

From the same conference the following words are worth keeping:

*"I would like to remind you of these things in order to go forward with all the enthusiasm and deepest conviction, knowing that this Faculty has its traditions of glory and merit, which only ignorant people and people of bad faith can disregard.*

*This Faculty was represented, even from the very beginning of our young army, by illustrious chiefs, to name some of the ones who passed away such as: int. General Bengescu Dabija member of the Romanian Academy, int. general Stanciovi S.,*

*int. General Ursacky C. G. and others."*

*If all of them were prominent organizers, if they were superior spirits, true glories of the Intendance and the Military, then you should know that all, without exception, were exemplary with an uncommon level of general culture.*

*Thus, the quoted generals trained many generations with the light of their science, either at the War School or in the practical exercises conducted by the troops.*

*The numerous works to be found in libraries illustrate this better than anything else."*<sup>17</sup>

After the Second World War, given the dismantling (destruction) of the Royal Army of Romania, the logistics education experienced changes due to the shortage of officers, the purges that followed after 1947, on political considerations, including upon administrative and intendants officers.

The Communist Party was moving towards democratizing the Romanian military and creating the new army of the people, by applying the Soviet military doctrine without discrimination and pursuing the direct control of the military.

The new forms of organization in education were politicized and intended to confer upon the graduate the status of military specialist and activist of the Communist Party, *"devoted to the party and the working people."*<sup>18</sup>

In 1948, as a result of the transformations that occurred in the network of military higher education, by Decree no. 1803 of August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Superior War School<sup>19</sup> was abolished and the Military Academy was established, and by Decree no. 261 of September 25, 1948, the Superior School of Intendance of the Military Academy was abolished and the Superior School of Military Administration was set up within the same institution.

One year later, through the diversification of education, based on Decree no. 371 / 14.09.1949, the Superior School of Military Administration was abolished and the Academy of the Rear Armed Forces Support was established, organized on two basic profiles, corresponding to the two faculties: General Faculty of the Rear Support, having as objective the training of command officers and the Economic-Financial Faculty for training of intendants and finance officers.

According to the new organization, the higher economic education of the military's logistics

underwent major transformations, a special emphasis being placed on the politico-ideological preparation of its faculty.

The course subjects studied were: *"the history of the labor movement in Romania and the international one; problems specific to party work in Romania; the methodology of party work in the military; elements of military strategy; elements of operational art; provision of services; services tactics; intendance; technical-material insurance; transport; organization and mobilization; financial insurance; material liability; philosophy; political economy; topography; Russian; physical education and sport"*<sup>20</sup>.

On September 12, 1953, by Decree no. 368, the Academy of the Rear Support was abolished, its personnel being taken over by the Military Academy. The two faculties of the Rear Academy took on a new form, becoming the *Faculty of the Rear Support and Military Supply* and the *Military Financial Faculty*, both with the duration of schooling of 3 years, following a higher training of service personnel (logisticians). The change was not only a change of name but also one of substance. A new content was given to the education and a distinct specialization of the officers was desired, corresponding to the supply and financial insurance compartments from all the levels.

In 1956, due to the increase of the degree of endowment and diversification of the units and the big units and with the technique of armored vehicles, tractors and vehicles, within the *Faculty of the Rear Support and Military Supply*, a new subject was added: fuel-lubricants. At the same time, in order to increase professional competence, new disciplines were introduced to all specialties: mathematics, chemistry, food technology and materials of intendance.

In 1959, by Decree 214 of January 13, the Military Academy merged with the Technical Military Academy (where the production logistics and technical assurance, namely, maintenance management was taught), under the name of the *General Military Academy*, and the *Faculty of Military Rear and Supply* changed its name in the *Faculty of Arms and Services*.

Giving due importance to all branches of the logistics of the military, in 1964, as a result of the constantly increasing needs for military transports at peace and in wartime, a new specialized profile

with the rank of section was established within the faculty: *railways and transports*. Also in the context of the improvement of the training of the specialized staff, during this period, higher academic courses of management services, intendance and finances were set up. The faculty thus worked with 5 sections (profiles) and a post-academic course.

In 1969, as an effect of the *Law on Education and Decree no. 1037/01.11.1968* regarding the organization and functioning of military educational institutions, the General Military Academy was reorganized so as to become the *Military Academy*.

Within the tactical-operative sector, four faculties were created, among which the *Faculty of Services (through the removal of the Faculty of Arms) with the profiles: service management, intendance, military transport and finance and two departments: the tactics of military services and transport department and the finance department*, and the duration of the courses was reduced from 3 to 2 years.

Starting with 1973, as a result of the structural norms for educational institutions, the Faculty of Services was transformed into the *Services Section, comprising 3 profiles: service management, intendance and finance and 2 departments: services tactics department and intendance and finance department*. The profile of *military transport* was included in the *Faculty of Combined Arms and Tanks*. The courses in the *fuels* profile were interrupted, these being resumed for several series, in 1979. Under that organizational form the specialized military higher education worked until 1989.

After the events of December 1989, in accordance with the transformations that took place within the entire society, including the higher education, which, in turn, included the military one, starting with 1990 in the Military Academy, as education itself started to be reorganized in the perspective of the development of the military according to new doctrinal principles, improving its functional structure and equipping it with modern technique and materials, the *Technical Military Academy* was separated from the *Military Academy*, while the *Services Section*, through the *Government Decision no. 550, art. 14, from May 17, 1990*, was transformed into the *Faculty of Logistics*. The new organizational form that corresponded to

the traditional university structures of our country and of the military, in addition to conferring a correspondent on the whole education system and assuming all the prerogatives that belonged to such an institution recognized in the country and in the world, also meant profound changes still requiring efforts so as to fully acquire the role and attributes of training staff in all technical-material, medical and financial insurance domains, arising from the purpose and concept of logistics adopted by most militaries of developed countries in the world.

In this respect, from an organizational point of view, the *Faculty of Logistics* returned to the traditional profiles, having foreseen distinct sections for the specializations: logistics management, intendance, fuel-lubricants and finance and three departments: *services tactics, intendance and finance*. Also, for the improvement of the training of the specialized staff, the faculty was able to organize and conduct post-academic courses of all the profiles. Starting with September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1990, the *Faculty of Logistics* organized and carried out a doctorate in the branch of military science, the "logistic profile" and had all the rights of verification and certification for granting the respective scientific title.

In 1991 according to *H.G. no. 305 of April 23, the Military Academy* changed its name to the *Academy of Higher Military Studies*.

A few years later, in 1995, the Academy of Higher Military Studies went through a series of transformations, establishing the Combined Arms Faculty. At the same time, the Faculty of Logistics was abated, becoming the Logistics Department within the mentioned faculty.

As 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2003 through *H.G. no. 1027, the Academy of Higher Military Studies* changed its name to the *National Defence University*, within which the *Combined Arms Faculty* comprised the *Logistics, Finances and Accounting Department* being set around two profiles: *Department of Logistics Management* and *Department of Economic-Financial Management*.

Between November 2003 and September 2004, structural changes and transformations took place in the National Defence University, the *Command Arms Faculty* changed its name to *Command and Staff Faculty*, and the two departments merged into the *Logistics, Finance and Accounting Department*.

In 2005 the *National Defence University, through H.G. no. 969 of August 25* changed its name to "Carol I" National Defence University.

In 2011-2012, the *Department of Logistics, Finance and Accounting* changed its name in the *Department of Logistics, Finance and Accounting within the Command and Staff Faculty*<sup>21</sup>.

The courses taught nowadays here are: "general tactics; military art; history of military art; military logistics; the history of military logistics; mobilization logistics; the tactics of logistic support structures; logistics management; supply management; public management; the methodology of designing and simulating logistic actions; financial insurance; public administration in the field of security and defense; accounting; political economy; public law; administrative law; commercial law; internal public audit; economic and financial mathematics; economic statistics; currency and credit; internal control and governance; material liability; military topography; military geography; ethics and morals; philosophy; modern languages (English, French, German, Greek, Russian, Arabic); military physical education.

From the beginnings to the present day, the evolution of the higher economic education in logistics of the Romanian Military was in accordance with the measures of continuous development and improvement of the Romanian military branches and with the need for continuous improvement of the logistics officers' training, in order to ensure the material conditions necessary for the personnel to gain victories on the battlefields, to live and to be trained.

This is why, today, we owe everlasting gratitude to our forerunners for the way how they showed their ability to use the resources they had available, which were often insufficient; their endeavors to train the logistics officers capable of planning and ensuring our military personnel the conditions necessary for living and fighting, for their sacrifice on the field of honor; for how they did their duty to the country and to the nation.

#### NOTES:

1 „*Ordinul de Zi 24 al Căimăcămiei Moldovei din 27 Aprilie 1857*, apărut în *Hrisovul Căimăcăniei Moldovei, nr. 31 din 30 aprilie 1857*, din *Registrul Istoric al Academiei Militare*, dosar 1, fila 7-8.



2 Veronica Bondar, *Buletinul Arhivelor Militare Române, Studii/documente*, București, 2015, [www.arhivelenationale.ro/.../lista](http://www.arhivelenationale.ro/.../lista).

3 Major in administration Anastasie Tomița Răzășul, *Gospodăria militară la români de la Dacia Traiană la România Reîntregită*, Tipografia Viața Literară, București, 1942.

4 Arhiva Ministerului Apărării Naționale, fond SSR, dosar nr.12, fila 2.

5 Ioan Rășcanu, The Minister of War between 1919-1921, in the government led by General Artur Vătoianu.

6 *Istoricul Școalei Superioare de Războiu 1889- 1939*, București, 1939, p. 299.

7 *Idem*.

8 *Idem*, pp. 299-300

9 Archive of the Ministry of National Defence, SSR Fund, File No 12, Tab 3.

10 *Revista Intendenței și Administrației Armatei nr. 1 din 1925*, p. 28.

11 Intd. Lt.- col.Gheorghiu Nicolae, Intd. Cpt. Vasilescu Constantin, *Străduinți*, appeared in the commemorative volume, *Întreținerea Armatei Române dealungul timpurilor; apărută cu prilejul restabilirii destinului istoric al gospodăriei Oștirii Române și al aniversării a opt-zeci și cinci de ani dela introducerea intendenței în viața noastră militară și națională*, General Staff Printing House, Bucharest, 1942, p. 547.

12 *Regulamentul Școalei Superioare de Intendență din Istoricul Școalei Superioare de Războiu 1889- 1939*, București, 1939, pp. 362.

13 *Idem*, pp. 363 - 367.

14 In our opinion, Military Logistics is the continuation of the *Military Administration* that appeared in the Romanian Military after the Unification of the Romanian Principalities under the command of Colonel Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

15 Int. Lt.- col. Alexandru Havrilet, *Intendența în Franța și România*, Editura Lumina, București, 1931, p. 127.

16 Intd. Lt.- col. Gheorghiu Nicolae, Intd. Cpt. Vasilescu Constantin, *op. cit.*, p. 549.

17 *Ibidem*, pp.549-550.

18 Arhiva Academiei Militare, fond Registrul Istoric, dosar nr. 1, fila 8.

19 In the explanatory memorandum to the Decree, Emil Bodnăraș stated that the Superior War School was "*an obsolete institution, outdated by the progress of events*".

20 Arhiva Ministerului Apărării Naționale, fond, 5440, dosar 1959, fila 17.

21 For the history of logistics education from 1948 to 2012, the data were obtained through documentation, from the *Historical Register* of "Carol I" National Defence University.

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Arhiva Ministerului Apărării Naționale, fond SSR, dosar nr.12, fila 2.

Arhiva Ministerului Apărării Naționale, fond SSR, dosar nr.12, fila 3.

Arhiva Ministerului Apărării Naționale, fond, 5440, dosar 1959.