

**HUNGARIAN NCO HISTORY BRIEFING**  
**SGM ZOLTAN SASHALMI**

## NCO History Briefing

SUBJECT: Hungarian NCO History Briefing: First Sergeant Peter Ujhazy

### I. Introduction:

A. Greeting: Good morning Sergeant Majors. My name is Zoltan Sashalmi. The next 15 minutes I will give you a briefing about the Hungarian NCO History.

B. Type and Classification: This is an unclassified briefing.

C. Purpose:

D. Background:

Procedure and Briefing Sequence: I will discuss for the next several minutes

1. Enlisted and NCO categories before 1993
2. Contracted Soldier Service
3. Training
4. First Sergeant Peter Ujhazy

### II. Body:

A. Conscript Soldier, "Tovabbszolgalo", Professional Soldier

B. Position, Job, CPL Norbert Dovak

C. 1999 Experimental training, 2001 Tapolca Training Center, 2004 KPTKK- NCOES

D. Biography, NCOES

### III. Conclusion:

A. Summary: Today I talked about the Hungarian NCO History and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Peter Ujhazy which consists of Enlisted and NCO categories before 1993, Contracted Soldier Service, Training, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Peter Ujhazy

B. Questions and Answers: What are you questions at this time?

Before 1869 the Cavalrymen served in the Hungarian Royal Army in Hungary. They were the same category as the officers now. Next to them served the cadets who are equal with the NCO and the simple infantry were the privates.

In 1869 Count Andrasi, who was the prime minister gave the order to establish a noncom corps. These noncoms job was to train the recruits. After WW II the government made his decision to draft the young Hungarians for mandatory service. At that time it took two years. Basically they used them as free labor. But a few years later, when the government was changed, the attitude for the conscript soldiers also changed.

From 1957 the Army established the first centralized training school in Szentendre. The well trained NCOs were able to train and to lead the approximately 10.000 drafted Soldiers in every year. During the two years service time if the Soldier met with the requirements he could be promoted from E1 to E3. After the mandatory service they had chance to stay in the Army and continue their service as volunteers. Based in their training, background and the evaluation report they were able to step ahead on the board. After five years their commander could nominate the best ones to become professional NCOs. This system was very effective and deliberate. These Soldiers were very well trained with enough experiences to do their job well, to help the NCO corps and later on to be useful members of this corps.

The other way to become a Professional Soldier was much simpler. The young civilian applicant had to attend the different kind of school and training up to his educational level and interest. This kind of training took from two to four years. The Soldier, who passed the entire exam and met with the requirements was promoted to Sergeant and started his military carrier as a Professional NCO.

At the beginning of the 90`s the government with the DOD started to work on a plan, how to change the Hungarian Army for a professional one and how to rotate the conscript military service to contracted military service. From 1993 according to the Statute on National Defense, certain officer, non-commissioned officer and regular positions may be filled with contracted soldiers in order to strengthen the professional character of the Hungarian Defense Forces. Contracted military positions are filled with volunteers. Contracted military service status shall be established for a definite time period. The contracted soldier shall be assigned to a definite position and may reach an appropriate rank. The tasks of contracted soldiers are to help the service of professionals; to fulfill certain commander positions; and to fulfill specific service tasks.

Conditions of establishment of service status:

- Voluntary application;
- Age over 18 (but under 47);
- Exclusive Hungarian citizenship;
- No criminal record;
- Permanent residence in Hungary;
- Certain educational qualifications:

For officer positions: university or college degree;

for non-commissioned officer and sub-officer positions: secondary school graduation; professional qualifications for certain positions determined by special laws;

for rank and file positions: elementary school graduation;

- Medical, psychological and physical fitness;

- Acceptance of service for a definite period:  
For officer and non-commissioned officer positions at least 5 years of service,  
for rank and file positions at least 2 years of service;
- Completed conscript military service in case of male applicants.

If the applicant meets all requirements, a written contract on the establishment of service status shall be prepared between the applicant and the Commander exercising employer authorities. Upon entering into a contract, a probationary period of not more than 6 months may be determined for the applicant. During the probationary period the agreement can be terminated by either party without explanation, with immediate effect. The length of contracted service can be extended by mutual agreement. The total time of contracted service shall not be more than 20 years in case of officer, ensign and non-commissioned officer positions; it shall not be more than 15 years in case of rank and file positions; and it shall not go over the determined upper age limit (57 years). As determined by law, the contracted soldier shall attain the military and professional knowledge necessary for the fulfillment of his service post in the first half a year of his service. He will be prepared for this by the means of a special requirement program by the competent Command that organizes his examination as well. A soldier admitted to the contracted rank and file staff shall fulfill service as a regular soldier until the end of his probationary period. Possibilities for further promotion are determined by the Statute on Military Service.

A contracted soldier, complying with specified requirements, may apply for admittance to professional staff.

The very first Hungarian contracted Soldier was CPL Norbert Dovak. He signs his contract at September 1993. At that time I was the only enlisted SF group commander and instructor in the 34. Bercsenyi Laszlo Long Range Reconnaissance

Battalion, First Company. All of the others were officers. CPL Dovak was my assistant. Me, as a young Sergeant, who just arrived to the company a few weeks before him was very proud because of the chance to train him and show to everybody the new system could work. In 1996 he was promoted to sergeant and he was in the first contingent to Shine. He was an excellent soldier, good example for the new contracted soldiers.

After 6 years enough contracted soldiers were serving in the Army to reduce the number and the service time of the conscripted soldiers. November 2004 the last conscripted soldier left the Army and after 53 years the Hungarian Defense forces became a Professional one.

Before 1999 the promotion system for contracted soldiers was based on service time. They got the next rank automatically after years. But in 99` it was time to change this system and work on a training system for it. In August of 99` an experimental training company was developed in the Kinizsi Pal NCO Training School. It was experimental in two aspects. That was the first centralized training for contracted soldiers and also the first time when they used the new company structure based on the US Army system. Next to the company commander showed up the First Sergeant and Platoon Sergeant. The course was six months long and basically it was a contracted version of the NCOES. After three courses a group analyzed the results and prepared their recommendations to the Chief of Defense Staff and his educational and training department.

From 2001 the new contracted soldiers got the unified basic training in Tapolca Training Base.

In the same year with the great helps of the CIMIC (Civil-military co-operation) the HDF started to make a plan how to adapt the full NCOES system and to fit it to

their own needs. SM ® Larry De Roche (US Army) did a great job based on his own knowledge and experiences. With his help and guidance in 2004 the first Hungarian PLDC was started. From the Hungarian side SFC Peter Ujhazy was and still is one of the leaders and Chief Instructor of the NCOES.

SFC Ujhazy was born in 24. 11.1971. in Miskolc, Hungary. He is single with no kids. He started his military career in 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 1993 as a conscripted infantry Soldier. He served one year at the Guard Company in the Kossuth Lajos Military School in Szentendre. After this time, he signed the contract with the Hungarian Army and became a contracted Soldier in the same company. In this time he was a Sergeant. He got a squad leader, later a platoon commander position. In 1996 he became a professional soldier. In 1997 when he has got the Staff Sergeant rank he took an Infantry NCO course. As his company commander served in Bosnia in 1997 he was the company 2IC. In 1998 he got an instructor position at a Reserve Commander Company. He was responsible for training of the Reserve Commander Officer Cadets during the basic training, 4 times a year. Between two basic trainings he helped to train NCO cadets in the NCO school.

In 2000 he went to Canada for a language course where he reached NATO Stanag 3.3.3.3. level in English language. In the beginning of 2001 he took a two week long instructor training course and a six weeks long Junior Leadership Course, also in Canada.

In 2001 he got an Infantry instructor position in the new Centralized NCO School in Szentendre. During this time he took a basic parachutist course, he became a Sergeant First Class, started his studies in a college as a technology instructor, and in 2003 he served in the Hungarian Transportation Battalion, in Iraq as a Transportation squad leader. After this mission -in 2004- his new assignment was

in the Leadership Training Team, as a senior instructor at the Kinizsi Pal NCO Training Centre. They organized and they have run the "Hungarian Primary Leadership Development Course". In the beginning of 2005 he was a member of the team, which job was to organise a Squad Leaders Course. From the end of April to the middle of June, in 2005, he took a Staff NCO course in the United States, at the United States Marine Corps. From 22<sup>nd</sup> of August to 15<sup>th</sup> of September in 2005, he worked for the British Military Advisor Training Team at the Szentendre Training Centre during the Train the Trainers Course as an interpreter. From 22<sup>nd</sup> of September to 15<sup>th</sup> of December he worked in the Squad leaders' course as a Chief Instructor.

SFC Ujhazy is a great NCO, conscientious subordinate and faithful friend of mine. With his behaviour and excellent professional preparedness he is one of the best role models for the young Hungarian NCOs.