

Ethical problems in Romania Army

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(RO)

An ethical problem in the Romania Army (Ro) relates to military opportunities and advancement. There are several topics that I consider and will discuss that are related to this area. They are the admission criteria for attendance to the Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) School, the current promotion system, promotion as an instructor in the NCO School, and the admission criteria for attendance to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA).

The military career opportunities system in RO Army, is not fair. To become an NCO in RO Army it is not a big problem. The requirements for joining the RO Army are that you are male or female, have Post High School degree, and be a maximum age of 24 years.

The problem appears when you are not sufficiently prepared physically, and mentally to pass the exam. What can you do? You could pay-off someone who can help you to pass the exams. This is one of the ethical problems in RO Army. Can I do something to fix this problem? The answer is yes. First, the easy way, is to insert in the admission team, NCOs well trained to do that, with integrity, have no friendly relations, and to assist officers during the exam. Second, the hard way, I'll eliminate this system, "direct way"(Post High School degree and maximum age of 24 years, male or female), because the other system which is "indirect way" is fairer. You can come in the army as a conscript for one year, and after that come in the NCO School without exam a, only with good record and physical examination. The training consists of six full months and after graduation gets promoted to the rank of sergeant. Fact: In 2002 September, our Academy had admission test for NCO. The number of military slots was 250 for different Branches and Schools, and the number of students was 1,500. Average was 6

students competing for 1 slot. This happens because of countries economical problems. In this case most of the students, not well prepared, start to find somebody to help them. As a CSM I knew that and I informed my commander. He discovered some people doing that “job”, of course, explain to them that, for one slot he has to pay some amount of money. In case of failure, the student gets their money back. What happened? Perhaps that person did nothing for that student, he just blackmailed the student, taking his money. This problem never happened after that.

To get the next rank, and the right position or right job in your military career, again, you just need some friendly relations and everything will be suitable. The promotion system should be fair for all military personnel. This system work for both categories NCOs and officers. Can I do something to fix this problem? I don't think so! Somebody from the highest level of our army started to fix this problem, because the phenomenon of “over night promotion” decreases drastically, but it not disappeared. The current promotion system can hurt the rest of people. When assessing the results of your expectations, you really want to be closer to the situation.

To become an instructor in the NCO School, there are two ways, the hard way, including here at school training for three months, away from your family or easy way, friendly relations or high connections with people in higher positions. This is similar to the promotion system. What should I do to prevent? Selections for new potential instructors should include me being a lead NCO. My subordinates count on me to do what is right and to follow the rules. They rely on me to make decisions that are ethically sound as well. To gauge what's right I have to use, if it is necessary the Army values, moral and ethical factors.

Admission criteria for United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, is one of the hardest ethical problem. The only requirement for the senior NCO who wants to attend, is to pass the English and writing test, but no speaking test. I do not think that the exams are not fair, the exam is suitable, because the examinations team is from United States of America. The real problem is that with the senior NCOs, most of them are not in a position as a SGM or CSM and after graduation, they go back to their units as a normal senior NCO, and over time they get promoted into higher position. Can this problem be fix? Professionalism is most crucial in any work. Again the answer is yes. First, all CSM and SGM slots from entire Army must be identified at the beginning and after that, based on their qualities, and their English knowledge (writing and speaking) should be identified for E-8 or E-9 NCOs, and send them one by one to USASMA.

Dealing on a day to day basis with the new and complex issues the Romanian military is experiencing difficulties with the transformation process. As a Sergeant Major, I am facing different problems which can lead me to experiencing stress and anger. Although it is very frustrating to have these feelings, I have succeeded so far to control them, and not to let them overcome my using the right judgment.

But, all of those problems should not determine weather we continue to do same bad thing, and force us to

decline from our ideas from our leadership values. Beside that, we, us CSM and SGM must support our commanders, to take care of our soldiers, and continue work to accomplish the mission.