

***SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES ADDRESSED TO ROMANIAN MILITARY  
PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL AND  
PROFESSIONAL ADJUSTMENT, AT RETURN FROM INTERNATIONAL  
THEATERS OF OPERATIONS***

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*Abstract: The twenty-first century is defined by major tensions within and among nations at global level. The role of the military involved in international missions, in conflict areas, is an important one and the social work component as a main support pillar of this category gains more and more importance in the context of evermore intensified global conflict environment. Starting from the national framework of the social component within the military system in Romania, the study aims to identify the perception of the Romanian military personnel engaged in the operation theatres regarding the support services addressed to their families and to themselves and to highlight the importance of specialized continuous intervention (while training for mission, during mission execution, and at return from theatre of operations) in view of re-adapting themselves to family life, to social and professional requirements. In order to fulfill the research main goal we combined theoretical sociologic research with the empirical one, encompassing both analysis of the already existent data and field documentation along with an interview investigation. The research focuses on the adequate social support services that enable the proper family, social and professional reintegration upon returning from international theaters of operation.*

**Keywords:** forces in the theater of operation, military social work, social support, family and professional readjustment, social needs.

**Motto:** "The Romanian Army cannot afford to ignore the social dimension of the work relationships with its own personnel".<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction:

The actual international political and military context is defined by numerous tensions, and its development is yearly becoming more and more complex, as for the Report of the Heidelberg Institute in the annual publication *Barometer of Conflicts* (in 2015: 409 worldwide conflicts<sup>2</sup>). The role of the military involved in the management of critical situations at the international level is an important one, and the social support component is a stake of support of this professional category while it is getting an even greater value nowadays when the whole world suffers in the context of an ever intense conflictual state.

Between 2010-2015, the period known as "theatres of operations generation"<sup>3</sup>, under command of NATO, EU, UN and OSCE, Romania participated in „multinational operations of stability and support, according to the international legislation referring to the use of military forces and to the commitments assumed [...] for keeping peace and security all over the world"<sup>4</sup>. From the numerical point of view, **Figure 1** (based on data released by the Romania's Supreme Council of Defense and MoD<sup>5</sup>) offers data regarding the number of deployed contingents and the stand-by forces out of the total available Romania forces in international theatres. These reflect the dimension and the potentiality of the social field to allocate both support services and special facilities for the military and their families.

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<sup>1</sup> Official Motto of the *Section of the military personnel's life quality*, available on the official site of the MoD <http://www.mapn.ro/structuri/dcvp/>, accessed on 01<sup>st</sup> March 2016

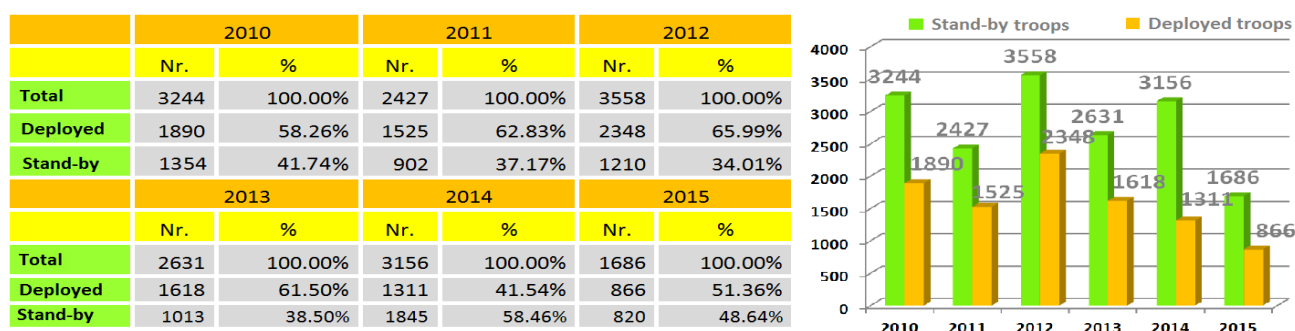
<sup>2</sup> \*\*\* *Barometer of Conflicts 2015, Heidelberg Institute pentru cercetarea conflictelor internaționale, 2015 p.13, disponibil online la [http://www.hiik.de/en/konfliktbarometer/pdf/ConflictBarometer\\_2015.pdf](http://www.hiik.de/en/konfliktbarometer/pdf/ConflictBarometer_2015.pdf), accessed on 01<sup>st</sup> March 2016*

<sup>3</sup> Ion Petrescu, "Radu Dobrițoiu despre Afganistan și generalii generației teatrelor de operații", published in *Adevărul*, 26 octombrie 2013, available online at [http://adevarul.ro/international/asia/radu-dobritoiu-despre-afganistan-generalii-generatiei-teatrelor-operatii-1\\_526b4659c7b855ff567f3c23/index.html#](http://adevarul.ro/international/asia/radu-dobritoiu-despre-afganistan-generalii-generatiei-teatrelor-operatii-1_526b4659c7b855ff567f3c23/index.html#), last accessed on 08.04.2016 [adev.ro/mv9if0](http://adev.ro/mv9if0)

<sup>4</sup> Teodor FRUNZETTI, coord., *Lecții învățate din participarea la misiuni multinaționale*, Etea Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005, p.17

<sup>5</sup> MoD, 2010-2014 files, available online at [http://www.mapn.ro/legislatie/rapoarte\\_activitate/](http://www.mapn.ro/legislatie/rapoarte_activitate/), accessed on 15.03.2015

**Figure 1 Romanian military troops involved in international missions between 2010-2015**



*Sursa: Autorul, 2016<sup>6</sup>*

Theatres of operations represents a continuous professional and personal challenge for the military taking part in it, because the wartime experience sets marks on each and everyone's personality with elements that may trigger either evolution or regress. Therefore, the military and their families need permanent support in order to cope with various life issues such as emotional, legal, health and religious problems that may occur during this time.

During the same time frame, 2010-2015, the Annual Activity Reports of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) focused on emphasizing the aim of the specialized structures to improve the personnel's life quality and also on initiatives on running coaching and counseling programs in order to prevent and solve social problems. Thus, The Official Journal of Romania (the August 7 edition, 2014), mentions that, in 2013, "constant efforts were made to cover the financial expenses in order to ensure food and equipment according to the legal provisions; provide better work conditions; satisfy the lodging necessities of the military personnel, offer reliable financial compensation for the monthly rent as well as optimum conditions to facilitate the physical and

<sup>6</sup> Table and bar chart designed according to data published in the Annual Report of the Romanian Supreme Council of Defense regarding the activity developed between 2010 and 2015.

psychological recovery of the military and the civilian personnel in specialized recreational centers within the MoD.”<sup>7</sup>

### **1. Social Support within the military system**

*Romania's National Defense Strategy 2015 - 2019*, implemented by annual action plans, takes the social factor into consideration along with other two important dimensions: education and health<sup>8</sup>.

Starting with 2012, The MoD College applies a set of measures that address serious social issues military and their families may face, by establishing multidisciplinary groups at the level of all its microstructures. These types of decision making and support groups are made out of experts coming from different interconnected fields, i.e. medical staff, legal counsellors, psychologists, financial and human resources personnel as well as priests.

From a legal perspective, the Romanian normative acts on the quality of life of active duty, reserve or retired military personnel and on the assistance of veterans are aligned with the European Legislation and Standards as they were imposed by the military coalitions Romania belongs to, (NATO, UN and OSCE). These are Law 121/2011, Emergency Ordinance of the Government 82/2006, Government's Decision 518/1995, updated in 2014 and the Internal MoD Order M 87/2014.

Here are main benefits and compensations offered to military who have suffered injuries or mental illnesses, to the disabled and the heirs of the deceased in multinational operations, outside the national borders: allowance for the hospitalization period abroad to those who have been either injured or severely wounded; if they were medically evacuated from the theatres of operations, until their medical situation is settled, they receive monthly allowance from the date they got injured, until their medical situation is settled; the indemnity is also offered in case insured risk happens, to cover the visit expenses of a first degree family members; if the

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<sup>7</sup> Activity report of the MoD in 2013, published according to the provision of art. 5 alin (3) from Law 544/2001 on the free will regarding public interest information, p. 4.

<sup>8</sup> *National Defense Strategy 2015 - 2019*, available online at <http://www.presidency.ro/static/Strategia%20Nationala%20de%20Aparare%20a%20Tarii.pdf>, accessed on 01<sup>st</sup> March 2016

military was medically evacuated from the theatres of operations to hospitals abroad, and received treatments both in country and abroad, for recovery treatments or medical devices, the right to wear the uniform after in reserve, monthly pay exemptions from taxes on radio and public television, and fixed phone line; free local public transport pass, free lodging within the recreation centres of the MoD, priority for enlisting children in daily care public centres and nursery public schools. Furthermore, the disabled, corresponding to the degree of their invalidity, benefit from monthly allowances, pensions, indemnities in case of taken insured risk, allowance for personal care assistant. In case of death, first degree relatives receive a compensation, financial support in case of death, a supplementary compensation for death, indemnities in case of taken insured risk, monthly compensations, scholarships for the heirs, support for renting or buying homes out of the Social Fund of the Public Administration, the permission to use the recreation centres, burial places in cemeteries, free medical assistance in public medical units, psychological assistance, the possibility for the surviving consort or for their heirs to enlist in military institutions of study and employment of the surviving consort within MoD structures or in other public institutions.

The Department for Communication with Parliament and Mass Media<sup>9</sup> is in charge with the whole set of social measures adopted by the Romanian MoD. Under its command, The Military Life Quality Standard Section and The Social and Behavioural Investigations Center are two institutions which have the most relevant impact upon the social support given to the military and their families. The Section is responsible for „the process of elaborating, promoting and implementing policies and programmes dealing with the life quality of military personnel, of reservees or retirees, and war veterans; the activity of finding solutions to social problems that military personnel must face in theatres of operations in country and abroad; technical secretarial service of the Central Commission for Social Problems and the Commission for Social Dialogue.”<sup>10</sup> The first mentioned commission relates with those set at each Army Branch and at the level of all military structures to the level of a military unit. Moreover, the Social and Behavioural Investigations Centre, together with its subordinated sections: Psychology and Sociology Sections, is focused upon defining the regulations in the field of military assistance

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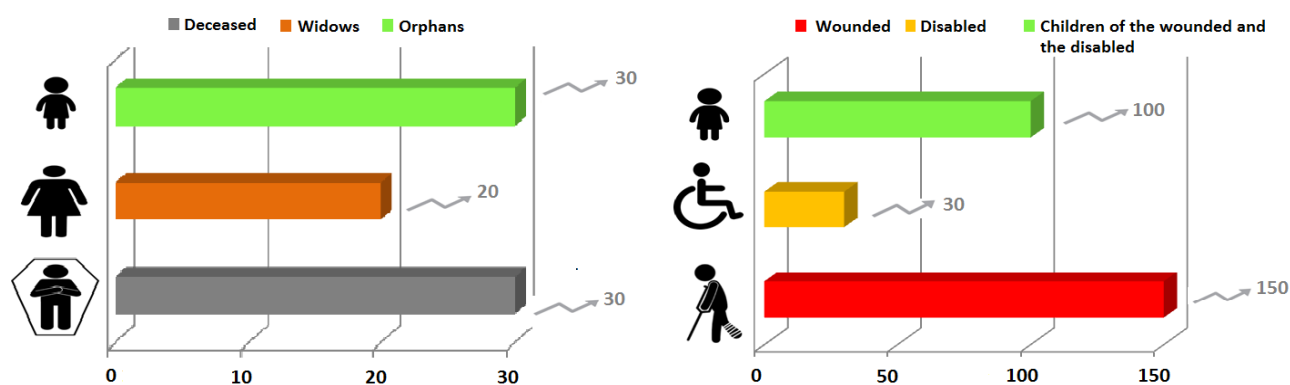
<sup>9</sup> The responsibilities of The Department for Communication with Parliament and Mass Media, available online at <http://www.mapn.ro/structuri/drpic/dirp/index.php>; accessed on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016

<sup>10</sup> Conform datelor publice prezentate pe site-ul oficial al MapN, available online at <http://www.mapn.ro/structuri/dcvp/index.php>; accessed on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016

within the military system, in order to ensure leadership support for commanders and military personnel. In 2015, *Manualul pentru pregătirea psihologică și controlul stresului operațional* (*Manual for Psychological Training and Operational Stress Control*) was one of the recent publications relised under the authority of this center.<sup>11</sup> This material develops in one of its chapters, *Psychological Implications of of Missions upon Family Life*<sup>12</sup>, a useful protocol which facilitates the reintegration of the idividual into the family, in the professional and social environment, during the following stages: before the mission, during the mission and after returning from mission.

Along with the above-mentioned military institutions, The Romanian Army Charity Organisation – *CAMARAZII (the Comrades)*, a non-governmental organization (NGO) positively appreciated and mentioned in almost every report of activitiy of MoD in the last 6 years, contributes effectively to the rapid and punctual finding of solutions to serious problems, especially of socio-medical interest. Some of its main objectives include support in case of serious social and medical problems, help in the precurement of medical devices, financial support in case of death, social support in case of emergencies or natural disasters, activities and measures dedicated to the heirs of the deceased<sup>13</sup>. The figure below includes numerical data referring to the target group of such actions.

**Figura 2:** Target group of social support activities and measures organized by the Charity Association of the Romanian Army – *CAMARAZII* (the Comrades) between 2004 and 2015



<sup>11</sup> Vasile MĂRINEANU, *Manual pentru pregătirea psihologică și controlul stresului operațional*, Ed. Centrului Tehnic-Editorial al Armatei, Bucharest, 2015

<sup>12</sup> Idem, p. 130

<sup>13</sup> main courses of action published on the web site of the Association, available online at: <http://camaraziimilitari.ro/despre-noi/prezentare-asociatia-camarazii/>

**Source:** *Author, 2016*<sup>14</sup>

For a clear picture of the degree of the social support implementation within the military system by the help of this organization, the SWOT analysis below shows some of the opportunities and challenges this organization faces nowadays.

**Figura 3: SWOT Analysis of the actual context of social work implementation The Romanian Army Charity Organisation – CAMARAZII (the Comrades)**

POZITIVE	NEGATIVE
For achieving objectives	For achieving objectives

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<sup>14</sup> Figure designed according to the data provided by the representatives of *The Romanian Army Charity Organisation – CAMARAZII (the Comrades)*.

<b>INTERNAL</b>	<b>STRONG POINTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personnel, especially the military one, with vast experience in the field of human resources, legal and economical project management; in close collaboration with psychologists and sociologists , mainly in the military environment;</li> <li>- Profile of the association is focused on a wide range of opportunities;</li> <li>- Fund raising and funding for the organization based on different sources: monthly membership fee from the military personnel, bank ordered transfer of 2% of the annual income tax, fund raising for donations and sponsorships of an equal value with the fee established for the current year in progress;</li> <li>-Branches and territorial agencies allow it to maintain a close contact with the target group and a general perspective upon the serious issues that need immediate and prompt intervention;</li> </ul>	<b>WEAK POINTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- absence of qualified personnel in the field of social work, especially social workers with tertiary grade studies registered in the National Register of the Social Workers in Romania;</li> <li>- incapacity to raise enough funds to cover the multitude of the recorded cases;</li> <li>-insufficient coverage of the need to translate all the documentation received from the foreign partners in languages of international usage, especially English, German and Polish.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>



<b>EXTERNAL</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Association has the quality of a main actor at the NGO level, at the national level;</li> <li>-the existence of a national legislative framework which facilitates the NGO to develop activities and planned events;</li> <li>- The quality of the missions in which the Romanian Army participates in theatres of multinational operations as a member of the NATO Alliance, extremely important for the international visibility of national military structures.</li> </ul>	<b>THREATS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fluctuation of incomes coming from temporary financial sources , donations and fundraising;</li> <li>- Weak infrastructure at local and national level;</li> <li>- The tendency of the governmental factor to picture itself as being in a position of authority against the non-governmental factor.</li> </ul>

*Source: Author, 2016*

As the military are to make constant adaptability efforts, their moral support in conflict zones, creating a sense of belonging to the military community for the family members and increasing the level of trust in commanders and the hierarchical structures of the system, all of these represent a condition for them to successfully accomplish their missions. Thus, the military system with both its specific opportunities and challenges, along with specialized NGOs as the *CAMARAZII* Association, starting from strategy, plans, legislation and implementation acknowledges the importance of the social support system for the military personnel which became evidence at the level of the *National Defense Strategy 2015*, of the specific legislation and of all departments and commissions that are part of it.

## **2. Personnel's viewpoint on military social support services**

Besides illustrating the organization and the functionality of the military support system offered to its own personnel with experience in multinational theatres of operations and to their families, this study mainly aims at highlighting the importance of a continuous specialized

intervention (during mission preparation, mission execution and at return from TO), in view of family as well as social and professional reintegration, by means of a quality research.

The case study is the qualitative method chosen because this approach „investigates a contemporary phenomenon in its context which is a piece of real life”<sup>15</sup> and it focuses on the common traces encountered at Romanian military personnel who have participated in multinational missions. The preferred research method is the semi-structured interview<sup>16</sup>, applied both to a number of six active duty personnel and to two officers directly involved in activities at the level of the central structures ensuring the life quality of skillful military personnel.

**Table 1: Sistematic collection of data resulting from the semi-structured interview**

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA						OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights
							2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
Logistics Officer	51	M	M <sup>20</sup>	1	1 mission	- financial compensations that partially covered the needs, without substantially	1. By the nature of his job function, the subject stated he showed both professional and social skills.
					2014-2015		2. The officer says that the

<sup>15</sup>Yin, Robert K., *Studiu de caz: designul, analiza și colectarea datelor*, trad. de Valentin Alupoaie, Iași, Polirom Publishing House, 2005, p. 30

<sup>16</sup>To see Chelcea, Septimiu, *Metodologia cercetării sociologice: metode cantitative și calitative*, București, Economică Publishing House, 2001, p. 267 and Jonathan Grix, *Demystifying Postgraduate Research From MA to PhD*, Birmingham, University of Birmingham Press, 2001, pp. 33-34, 74-77.

<sup>17</sup>SW = Social Work

<sup>18</sup>TO = Theaters of Operations

<sup>19</sup>SSS = Social Support Services

<sup>20</sup>M = Married; S= Single; D = Divorced; W= Widow.

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA					OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>	
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights
							2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
					Afghanistan (8 months)	modifying his social and economical situation; -psychological assessment; - recovery period in a recreation centre of the MoD.	contribution of SSS to family life and the professional environment reintegration partially solves vital issues, some key aspects are left behind, i.e. reestablishing the normal order of things is linked to the profile of the military both from professional and moral point of view, by his own system of norms, principles and values.
Officer Ground based artillery	45	M	M	1	4 missions 2004-2005; 2007-2008; 2011-2012; 2015.	- financial compensations; - psychological assessment; - benefitted each time at his return from free lodging in a recreation centre for a few days.	1. About the Commission for Family Support and about the group of volunteers for family support, the officer was surprised and he mentioned that the dates when he was in missions this kind of commission and this group did not exist and if it already existed he had not been informed about it by the specialized structure which organized the training

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA					OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>	
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights 2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
					Ivory Coast (12 luni x2); Georgia (12 luni); Ukraine (6 luni)		before mission deployment. 2. Talking about the contribution of the social support to the reintegration within family and professional, the officer also mentioned that the social component in the army must be improved significantly, so that we can speak about results and about the benefits of this service, For the moment I can compare it with a prototype, not with a series product. To pass from this stage to the series stage you need substantial funding.”
Enlisted Soldier Communications and IT	27	M	S	-	1 mission 2013-2014	- financial compensations; - psychological assessment; - he refused the post mission recovery leave for a period of sixteen	1 The subject did not know anything about the family support measures. He only knew about the possibility of post mission recovery for 16 days. As for the psychological counselling service the military adds that the detachment he was

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA					OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>	
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights 2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
						days; he said chose not to benefit from the facilities of a military recreational center	in had a psychologist in its competence but the current evaluations were done only formally, they were part of the routine.
					Afghanistan (7 months)	because of improper conditions.	2. Could not express his opinion because he confessed he had not been updated regarding the system of measures dedicated to the family during deployments and did not have any idea about the family support given three months after the return from the mission.
Non-commissioned officer Land forces Infantry	49	M	M	1	4 missions 1998-1999; 2007; 2008; 2011-2012.	- financial compensations; - psychological assessment; - economic and housing situation of the military changed	1. The subject claims he did not get updated information whether about the role of the Commission in charge with family support, or the existence of the Group of volunteers for Family Support. In his opinion the activities of information and

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA					OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>	
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights 2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
						significantly but not particularly because he participated in mission but because he opened a mortgage for a period of 25 years.	education at institutional level and the activities for institutional support regarding the rights and obligations of the military personnel during training for a mission, execution and at mission return are organized strictly at the formal level.
					Angola (10 months) Albania (6 months) Irak (6 months) Afghanistan (6 months)	As for the possibility to get free access in recreation centers when he returned from the mission, the military mentioned that he preferred not to use the lodging facilities.	2. The Subject preferred not to express his opinion about the support services offered by MoD.
Non-commissioned officer Logistic Support	39	F	D; M	1	2 misiuni 2011; 2014-2015.	- financial compensations; - psychological assessment and counselling;	1. The subject confessed that before leaving on missions every military was given a brochure containing general cultural knowledge about the area where

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA					OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>	
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights 2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
						<p>- at mission return from the mission the economic situation of the military changed positively but did not have a long time effect.</p>	<p>they had to be deployed to. Both before embarking and , during the mission but also at return, the military benefited from sessions of psychological counseling. Moreover, during the period she was on the mission she was happy to share the room with the psychologist himself dedicated to that mission (a woman). In this context, the NCO felt she received as many encouragements as she needed, useful advice which helped her successfully overcome the situation.</p>
					Afghanistan (8 months și 6 months)		<p>2. At the date of the interview the subject appreciated that he had a sense of self-accomplishment as a military and even if her child was a toddler, she wanted to participate in a new mission as soon as possible.</p>

SUBJECT S	IDENTIFICATION DATA					OWN VIEWPOINT on SSS <sup>17</sup>	
	Age	Sex	CivilStatus	Children	Experience in TO <sup>18</sup>	Has or not benefited from SSS <sup>19</sup>	1. The degree of information regarding the offered social rights 2. Personal opinion on the actual status of the SSS in the military
Officer Military Justice Consellor	38	M	M; D; M	1	1 mission 2012-2013	- financial compensations; - psychological assessment; - financial compensations did not change his economic, social and housing situation significantly; with the money he received he could pay his debts.	1. Due to the nature of the position he holds, the subject gets the latest updates of all orders, instructions and legislative regulations regarding SSS dedicated to the military and to their families; he himself has been not only once a member in the commission who releases direct information regarding different orders directly, by processing different orders in all the three stages of the military action.
					Afghanistan (6 months)		2. The officer declared that he did not consider the benefits of the support services palpable enough. However, the subject appreciated that during the mission, the command of the Army branch he belonged to had permanently expressed constant care regarding all its subordinates.



*Source: Author, 2016*

Along with the case studies presented above, the hereby research was widened by means of an interview in which I had the special honor to speak to two superior officers within a central military structure playing a standardization role in the field of life quality for the military personnel in the Romanian Army.

To the question regarding the method through which persons who are in need of assistance are identified, they explained that, first of all, the structure they work for does not perform “mere support services” but it is mainly oriented towards coordinating all those activities that imply finding the right solution for the injured or for those who experience physical and psychological suffering in the theaters of operations, problems of the disabled and of the family members of the deceased.

Aiming to identify the persons in need of assistance, formally speaking, this military institution has three interaction paths with the beneficiaries: on one side, they receive daily reports or each and every hour about the critical situations in the multinational theaters of operations: wounded people, injuries, casualties etc by means of the internal communication circuit within MoD or by reversing the order, military personnel who have critical problems apply to such entities which can ensure them the appropriate rights by means of a written report; on the other hand, there is this proactive side of the Minister which is based on official letters communicated from top-down. An informal way to identify the beneficiaries is to invite them to different events organized in honor of them or, reversing the communication channel the interaction sometimes takes place from the beneficiary towards the appropriate entity. For example, a veteran can solicit recognition of his rights, decoration and promotion in a higher rank.

According to the two officers’ opinion, most beneficiaries appeal to this structure in view of finding a solution to problems closely linked to the socio-medical field. As for the family support, the officers stated that, following the regulations in power, the military participating in theatres of operations in a foreign country benefit from substantial facilities and financial compensations, as well as from emotional, psychological, medical and religious support services. Facilitating their communication with their families is among the precious benefits, the two officers appreciated.

The most frequent reasons why the beneficiaries appeal to the social support services are,

of course, linked to their status in the military context. Thus, among the primary responsibilities there are issues regarding coping with certain problems that families of the military deployed in theaters of operations encounter, assistance demanded by the wounded, the disabled and the veterans along with the rights of the widows and the minors who have lost a parent in international missions. In order to solve as many social issues as it may, MoD is efficiently managing the collaboration between its structures and the social service given by external providers, both public entities or private, for example local mayors, Directions for the Protection of the Child and Social Services, NGOs etc.

Speaking of trends and development prospects of social field in the military environment, due to the quality of the above mentioned institution to elaborate, propose and implement policies and programs, the officers insisted on the fact that, in the near future, the foundation of a unique integrating structure is a must and it should consist in a multidisciplinary team having the role to direct the flow and to harmonize all the regulations of the social field but also to put them into practice.

### **3. Main research findings**

Following the scientific approach taken, it can be favored the idea that the most visible support actions were aiming critical social and medical problems. The specific situations some family members of those executing external missions, may find themselves in have generated concrete, appropriate and coordinated intervention primarily focused on counseling and support to solve a wide range of issues, starting from emotional ones and going up to financial, legal or health ones. These specific measures come to enhance the wide range of family support actions in general.

The research completed in the hereby paperwork attempts at pointing out that active duty military personnel in theatres of operations make a continuous and impressive readjustment effort. The social support simultaneously ensured to them and their families implies a certain deep longitudinal and multilateral knowledge of life contexts and of the stress a person is up to endure, professionally speaking. The success of the Romanian Army participating in international missions with troops and assets, in stability operations or peacekeeping operations, within multinational structures, depends on finding the appropriate approach to facilitate the social adaptation of the personnel involved.

Information gathered by means of empirical research has made a significant contribution in the development of this study, as new aspects which haven't been revealed in the first, theoretical part, have now arisen. The eight semi-structured interviews allowed a new perspective to be drawn up according to which today's implementation opportunities of a family support system which may promptly answer more to the needs of the military and of their families. All interviewees sustain the fact that the management principles of the structures in charge with family support, the actions taken in order to overcome the difficult enough moment of going on a mission, the measures, on the emotional and material plan, that can be taken during the mission for solving some troublesome situations that may appear within their families and the measures taken to facilitate integration at the family, professional and social level after returning from mission remain some theoretical coordinates. However, there is still a chance as the military social support system is at the beginning of the road and there are clear premises for improvement and development of the responsible structures for the personnel's life quality at the decisional, legislative and implementation level.

From the perspective of the emotional support coming from the extended family and the life partner, all interviewed military underlined the vital importance of having had their morale boosted up as this is something which determines a considerable growth of adaptability degree when they are back with the family, or within one's professional and social life. The Family factor as it came out of the interviews taken, does not manifest immediately, directly and in a determininist way upon the decisions that gover the professional activity of the military in the theatre of operations, but its positive role upon the men's moreale is important for achieving success during the mission because it facilitates the welfare, the self-trust, the psycho-emotional balance. Conjointly with family support, the help offered by the team commander by the psychologist, physician, legal counsellor or by the comrades within the same section, represents one of the most frequent resources used to overcome eventual diificulties of adaptation. Consequently, the development of the approaches to consolidate the field of social work in the military system is a very actual trend and a very important one for the military career and for the social reintegration of all participants in theatres of operations.

### **Conclusions**

Starting from the reality that shows that Romanian military deployed both in mission to combat terrorism, and peace support or in humanitarian actions face up serious risks, the

hereby paper pinpoints the importance of the social support within the military system taking into account its crucial role in view of identifying correctly and in due time their needs be them of an emotional, psychological, social-medical, legal nature as well as facilitating their access and their family members' access to adequate social support services in view of their social reintegration.

The existence of a concrete social support system, fully integrated in the military system, consisting of a multidisciplinary team which can really support the military and their families during the their deployment in the theatres of operations, maintaining an open channel of communication between the responsible actors and the participants in missions would substantially contribute and, in realistic terms, to a better reintegration at family, social and professional level.

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