



Magyar Hadtudományi Társaság

Hungarian Association of Military Science

## Code of Ethics of the MHTT

### PREAMBLE

**Military science is a discipline** that fosters social development through the value creating capability of knowledge and affects people's collective sense of security, the individual's sense of responsibility, including the complex interconnectedness of social integrity. Military science is an empirical science and also an interdisciplinary science. It is, organically connected to various parts of security studies, defence, military arts, military engineering, defence economy, military history, and social sciences, with special emphasis on psychology, sociology, pedagogy and human resource management.

Scientific activity is a sensitive area, therefore its basic element is the observance by our members of the written and unwritten rules of ethical conduct, which is ensured by the adoption and continuous development of the present **Code of Ethics** (hereinafter CoE). To this end the **Hungarian Association of Military Science** (hereinafter MHTT, or Association) was established in 1990, which is an independent, non-governmental organization with its own self-government. Its scientific activity is governed by the Fundamental Law of Hungary, Act CLXXV of 2011 on the right of association, and the operation and support of non-governmental organizations, Act LXXXVIII of 2005 on activities in general interest, and also by the Hungarian legislation in force. Its Constitution was approved by the Assembly of Delegates and registered by the Metropolitan Court.

**Functions and basic principles** (values) in the social embeddedness and **mission** of the MHTT:

- The uniquely complex position of the MHTT stems from its **mediator role**. It is to exercise rights and fulfil obligations connected to social and science policy aspects of national defence, which makes the work of the Association particularly difficult.
- On the basis of the above outlined aspects it is regarded justified to operate professional organizations in which our members may have opportunity to elaborate on their scientifically founded opinions – underpinned with their scientific research activities in their papers, lectures, contributions, or even in teaching – regarding a given issue.
- The mission of the MHTT is not only to provide **support to the efficient cooperation** among the active players of social life but also to **preserve and develop its research and methodology toolsets** that assist the **analysis, recognition**, and the elaboration of alternative solutions relevant in the scientific sense of the word.
- In the scientific activities of the Association added value must be present in every field of cultivating military science both from theoretical and practical aspects. (§2 MHTT Constitution)

These are as follows:

- Mediation, conflict management, quest for consensus;
- Support for research in the field of military science and security studies;
- Integration of persons willing to work for military science;
- Dissemination of scientific findings;
- Maintenance of historical traditions.

Conducting the above activities the MHTT observes and enforces:

- That the Association shall provide support to all interested persons at various levels or to age groups through **continuous transfer of knowledge**. The wide range of events shall be fundamentally **prepared, organized and conducted** by the **sections and clubs of the Association**.
- The MHTT shall regularly organize conferences, symposia, and workshops where highly qualified experts and specialists highlight not only **potential conflicts and obstacles** but they present **possible solutions** as well.
- The responsibility and mission of the MHTT is to disclose and present faulty practices that harm both citizens and the case of national defence and assist and support the promotion and dissemination of good practices and solutions. This is also **the mission of the MHTT**.

Basic principles observed by the MHTT:

- Respect to human values;
- Protection of minorities and recognition of their rights;
- Digital data protection;
- Recognition of scientific integrity;
- Respect to copyrights;
- Respect to discussion and critical thinking;
- Ethical communication on the internet and social media interfaces.

The MHTT has a registered membership (§1 MHTT ASZ). Its services may be provided to others – non-members – as well §1, §2 MHTT ASZ).

## **GENERAL ETHICAL RULES AND NORMS**

This chapter lists the moral and professional ethical norms which the **members** of the Association are expected to meet (§3 MHTT ASZ). These are also the norms in accordance with which the **Ethical Committee adopts its opinion** with regard to submitted cases (§7, §9 MHTT ASZ). In light of the multiple embeddedness of the members of the MHTT (they are teachers of NUPS, students, doctoral students, members of the HAS, elected officials) at shaping its opinion the EC takes into consideration the effective Code of Ethics of the NUPS and the science ethics of the HAS.

The present document is the annex to the Organizational and Operational Regulation and is in line with the statements thereof. This regulation contains potential breaches of ethical norms and other infractions resulting in disciplinary measures. If an **infraction is of moral nature**, an

**ethical procedure** is launched to be conducted by the EC. **Disciplinary cases** and other issues of similar nature comprise the responsibility of the **Supervisory Committee**.

**The CoE is the fundamental document of the moral and professional ethical self-regulation of the MHTT.** Since the Association is a scientific, civil, and professional organization, it formulates recommendations for its members:

- **The personal scope of the CoE covers every member of the MHTT.** Our new members are to be ensured that they study the constitution, the Organizational and Operational Regulation and the Code of Ethics. The officials of the Association have particular responsibility for making their activities conform with the provisions of the Constitution and the Code of Ethics.
- A member of the MHTT must accept that any **final judgement** delivered against them deprives them from MHTT membership.
- **The substantial scope of the CoE is extended to all publications of the Association,** including the web site of the MHTT and its appearance on social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) working in accordance with the basic principles of ethical communication and their moderation practice is in line with it.

The **purpose of the CoE** is to summarize general human and specific requirements and cases which presume the moral cleanliness of the scientific and associative activities of the MHTT, the high esteem, and respect in country and abroad, and the moral integrity of the members thereof on the one hand, and in the case of violation of any of the above points the ethical procedure **may be launched** in line with the **provisions of the order of business** (§14 MHTT constitution) on the other hand. Such cases are as follows:

- If any of the members of the Association advocates norms in conflict with the spirit of the constitution and its substantial requirements, or acts accordingly, they are to accept, respect, and follow the values of general Hungarian culture, traditions, and human rights in particular, therefore they must behave in a way that does not undermine the respect and reputation of the Association;
- If any of the members of the Association fails to meet the requirements of mutual respect, trust, and appreciation towards other members, thus hurting the self-esteem and dignity of others;
- If any of the members of the Association disputes and contests the necessity and legality of the necessity of their exclusion based on a final judgement;
- If any of our fellow members clearly breaches the interests of the community or the noble traditions of the Association through their egocentric practice in the activities within the Association.
- **Each of our members** is expected to **conduct some activity** apart from paying their membership fees (for example, participation in central and section events, regular publication, expression of opinion in writing or orally, making suggestions on the activities of the MHTT, etc.)

The leaders of the Association are to pay special attention to lasting passivity and payment of membership fees. Any member may have difficult times or health problems which may be the cause of their regular absence which should be approached in a humane way.

Each Association member has the right to **freely express their professional opinion** while observing the ethical norms. During our activities it should be presumed that all Association members are guided by identical professional and ethical commitment:

- As a scientific, civil, and professional organization the MHTT is not a religious or political organization therefore neutrality should be observed in these matters;
- If commitments, obligations, and tasks are demonstrably and deliberately failed to be completed, or the society resources are used incorrectly and irresponsibly. However, if no intentionality can be proven, a disciplinary procedure can be launched.
- An ethical **procedure may be launched** if any of our fellow members fail to comply with the written and unwritten **rules of scientific research and publication activities**, to strive to disclosing real values, or approaches to constructive professional and ethical criticism.
- During the evaluation of assigned scientific works the relevant rules are not to be violated – for example the rules of anonymity – criticism is to be fair and impartial, an intellectual product, candidate, or applicant is not to be preferred deliberately and for self-serving goals.
- If the rules of scientific collegiality and fairness are breached, the scientific findings of others are used or declared as their own, or if interviews and declarations of statements are given on behalf of others without due entitlement.
- It is an **ethical abuse to deliberately impede** the scientific career of other relevant persons, or of the utilisation of valuable creations.
- An ethic investigation may be launched if a member of the Association disputes the justified process initiated against them, or refuses to cooperate.
- An **ethic investigation** is conducted in accordance with and tight adherence to the regulations approved and laid down **in the constitution** in order to have the moral requirements strengthen **the professional and ethical prestige of the Association** with support of the conviction and examples of the membership.

The MHTT reserves the right of **information management** and deletes the **ominous part(s) of objectionable** remark, contribution, lecture, or statement pursuant to the following moderation principles:

- A content violating effective laws, violating, for example, personality rights, minority or community rights, data protection acts, inducing discrimination or hatred;
- A content severely detrimental, defamatory for other persons, violating human honesty, and dignity;
- A content calling for the violation of a legal act;
- Comments and remarks of profaning nature, spreading false information, or containing threats of public danger;
- Publicising personal data of others without their consent;
- Open or hidden advertising;
- Violation of business interests: ungrounded accusations of companies, products, or services, libel.

An ex-post **moderation** does not involve any **correction of grammar mistakes or text edition**. In the case of the violation of basic moderation principles, an ethical investigation or disciplinary procedure is launched.

In the course of the operation of the web site of the Association transparency must be permanently observed. Its determining elements are the **ethical data management**, observing the provisions of personal data protection rules and GDPR, and completing annual information security audits. Data handed over to the data manager during the use of the Association web site ([www.mhtt.eu](http://www.mhtt.eu)) – particularly during the registration for a conference – are handled as confidential information and should not be passed to any third parties. As a data controller the Hungarian Association of Military Science obliges itself to the contents of the Data Protection Regulation. The controller takes responsibility for making the data management on its web site ([www.mhtt.eu](http://www.mhtt.eu)) and all activities comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Regulations, and the relevant legal acts. The controller identifies the objective of data management, makes decisions on data management (including the tools), and executes them or has the data processor execute them.

### **THE ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE EC**

**This document** is the **Annex** to the Organizational and Operational Regulations of the Hungarian Association of Military Science (hereinafter, Association or MHTT) and is in line with the statements thereof. Conflicts of professional-ethical nature within the Association may be resolved primarily through mediation that is through seeking consensus. Should such efforts fail, the Ethical Committee is involved in order to legally and ethically resolve the conflict situation.

In accordance with the constitution of the Association the Ethical Committee “... shall safeguard compliance with the moral rules of scientific activities.”

In the case of **cooperation problems** among the members of the Association, or those among sections and leading bodies, the **EC** attempts to take the role of arbitration. The EC was established not per se but for the Association and all of its members. Its objective is not to misrepresent or ethically discredit anyone since **ethical reputation should be open to anyone** until the opposite is proven. The EC struggles for the clean moral life of the Association, the observation of the ethical rules of scientific activities, for encouraging the Association members to avoid ungrounded opinions, defamation, and insinuations.

The **EC, elected by the congress of deputies**, is a body within the structure of the MHTT, operating in accordance with the constitution, the organizational and operational regulations, and the CoE. The EC consists of three persons (president and two members) who are elected for three years by the congress of deputies. The resolution on the revocation or replacement of the members or president is made by the congress of deputies. (MHTT ASZ §7; §12).

During its work the **EC maintains working relationship** of ethical character with the president of the Association, the members of the Steering Committee, the presidency, the supervisory committee, and if necessary with the presidents of relevant sections, or MHTT members affected by ethical issues. As an invited person, the president of the EC participates in each meeting of the Steering Committee, and that of the presidency. If the president is unable to attend a meeting of high significance, he/she delegates the task to a member of the Ethical Committee.

The EC has its meetings as necessary but no fewer than once a year. (MHTT ASZ §12). **Minutes are drawn up of each meeting.** These meetings may be held through electronic media

as well, but in such cases minutes should be drawn up meeting both content and format requirements, and be archived similarly to other documents.

At the meetings of the EC the invited persons have the right to participate. The quorum for the meetings is the presence of two thirds of the EC members. The EC meetings are convened by the committee president, who is tasked with proposing their agenda, and chairing the meetings. The minutes are authenticated by the signature of the EC president and may be accessed by the relevant persons. The minutes, draft resolutions, and other official documents are kept by the president. When a new president enters office, the documents are handed over to him/her.

The **EC acts as an official body**, its resolutions are approved by a simple majority. Its members have the right to attach their reservations to the minutes in the case of disagreement or substantial differences in views.

Only ethical investigations recorded in minutes and registered in a decision are regarded as official. The content of the **written resolution of the EC** may be as follows: **ethical conviction, exculpatory, or transferring**. The latter may happen if the ethical investigation reveals that the misconduct is not of ethical but disciplinary nature.

**An investigation may be launched against the members of the MHTT** in justified and substantiated cases. The EC may be consulted by any member of the Association on interpretation or advisory matters. An ethical investigation can only be launched if the EC is requested in writing by the Delegates' Assembly, the presidency, or any of the members.

The first stage of an ethical investigation consists of the evaluation of the justification of the request, which is followed by stages of interview, assessment, and decision making. The president of the Ethical Committee delivers the resolution of the EC to the president of the Association.

Upon the completion of the ethical investigation – with complete respect to personality rights – the written resolution is handed over to the person in question. The decision on publicising an EC resolution is made by the president of the Association.

## **FINAL PROVISIONS**

The present Code of Ethics was approved by the MHTT Presidency at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and submitted to the Delegates' Assembly for ratification. The Delegates' Assembly approved it unanimously on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

At the same time, the DISCIPLINARY section was separated from the Code of Ethics and Discipline approved in February 2015.

The Code of Ethics adopted by the Association at its 1996 delegates' meeting; the Rules of Procedure of 2014; and the Regulations of 2015 are revoked and archived.