

LEPL - David Agmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia



Vision of the Rector

2022





BRIGADIER GENERAL MAMIA BALAKHADZE

RECTOR'S SPEECH

A necessary precondition for building a democratic, strong and prosperous state is to provide the system of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia with the state-minded officers with national values, ideals, essential skills for leadership, best military and academic education.

In order to fulfill this mission, the following schools and structural units are successfully functioning in the Academy: The Junker Training Battalion, Junior Officers Training School, Bachelor and Master Programs, Training Support Center, Sports and Physical Training Service, library, sports complex, scientific-research, examination and distance learning centers.

The activities of the Academy are based on creating a Junker/student-oriented environment. The Academy employs highly qualified military personnel, instructors, academic and visiting staff whose primary goal is to educate Junkers and students based on the following values: Homeland, Dignity, Loyalty, Courage, Respect, Honesty and Selfless Service.

In order to achieve the goals of the Bologna Process, the Academy successfully implements continuous development of the quality of teaching/learning process, internationalization of higher education programs, continuous cooperation with educational institutions of partner countries, mobility of Junkers/students and personnel of the Academy in the international educational space. Through the above mentioned activities, the Academy fully meets the existing national and international standards for educational programs.

The Academy, as a military higher education institution, is constantly facing challenges. Based on our commitments, the primary goal is to ensure the compatibility of the educational programs implemented by the Academy with the requirements of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia and the Defence Forces; as well as to provide theoretical and practical knowledge to the Junkers and students that will meet the needs of the defence system. In addition, the Academy must be constantly in line with the requirements of the educational space at the national and international levels.

The staff of the Academy, both military and civilian, should understand the importance and role of the Academy in the formation and development of future military leaders, which ensures the readiness of the Academy to successfully cope with all the challenges it faces, including pandemic situations and etc.

Following the analysis of the activities carried out during 2021, the main priorities of the Academy for the improvement and development of the Academy by 2022 are: raising the level of military training of Junkers/students, institutional development, development of educational programs, improvement of scientific-research activities, development of distance learning center, strengthening of international cooperation, care of the personnel, logistical development and raising awareness of the Academy.

It is a great honor for me to serve our country, the Ministry of Defence of Georgia and the Defence Forces, as the Rector of the LEPL - David Agmashenebeli Georgian National Defence Academy. We, the leadership of the Academy, together with each member of the staff, will spare no effort to achieve the goals set by the Academy. To ensure the above, we present the vision for 2021 as a guidance document.

Rector of the Academy
Brigadier General Mamia Balakhadze



RECTOR'S VISION

1. MILITARY TRAINING OF THE JUNKERS/STUDENTS

The most important issue for the Academy is the formation of worthy future military leaders. All graduates of the Academy must have the necessary skills of a leader and a level of military training that determines their competitiveness in the defence and security sector of the country.

We will take all necessary measures to make all the graduates of the Academy among the best.

1.1 IMPROVING THE LEVEL OF MILITARY TRAINING

The Academy must ensure that the Junkers were progressive-minded, equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. The Junkers must be ready to lead a small unit in peacetime and in a crisis situation.

The relevant structural units of the Academy should ensure that Junkers / students have the theoretical and practical knowledge pertinent to the qualification requirements for military training defined for the military personnel of the Defence Forces of Georgian.

In order to increase the level of military training, in 2022 we plan to improve the quality of teaching military disciplines in the Academy in terms of combat training (tactics and military supporting courses). The main focus of the mentioned process will be to share international best practices, to bring the educational programs into compliance the Academy with the requirements of the Defence Forces and the existing challenges; professional development of instructors (trainings in teaching-learning and assessment methodology).

In addition, along with theoretical training, we will support the development of military-practical skills of Junkers/students. The Academy conducts practical exercises and field trainings by using the modern technologies. We plan joint field exercises/training for Junkers/students with the involvement of active military personnel who have experience in military trainings conducted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In 2022, active cooperation with partner military educational institutions of foreign countries will continue.

In a given pandemic situation, cooperation will also be carried out remotely. The Academy ensures equal access for Junkers/students to participate in planned programs.

During 2022, high-rank command staff visits are planned as part of the Speaker Program, visits to various agencies, a mountain training course, a parachute course, and a ranger/lone survivor course.

1.2 JUNKERS LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The Academy must constantly ensure that the Junkers acquire the necessary leadership skills. In the training process, when developing leadership skills by Junkers, the focus should be on: the assignment and rotation of the Junkers at different command positions, getting practical experience in units, studying the principles of Mission Command.

1.3 CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

We consider the development of critical thinking skills as an integral part of development a military serviceman as a leader. That is why it is necessary to integrate critical thinking, military scenarios and after action reviews into the programs implemented by the Academy.

At the Academy, the Junkers must learn analytical, critical and creative thinking; realize the supremacy of law and discipline. It is necessary for the Junkers to realize principles of statesmanship and their obligation as a citizen as well as a military serviceman to the homeland.

1.4. IMPROVEMENT OF PHYSICAL TRAINING

Without proper physical training, it is impossible for a Junker/student to have the appropriate endurance and strength to participate in the military exercises. In order to improve the level of physical fitness of the Junkers /students priority should be given to general military endurance/strength training, development / implementation of individual (special) military training and physical training programs.

Physical training programs of the Academy should serve to bring the level of physical fitness of the Junkers/students in line with established standards and to raise the level of individual training.

2. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Academy is oriented to constant development. That is why in 2022, in accordance with the requirements of the system of the Ministry of Defence, we plan to: establish undergraduate programs in in aviation engineering and law, as well as the master's programs in diplomacy and international politics.

3. ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

As the Academy is the only military higher education institution in Georgia, we properly understand the importance of the academic programs we have implemented for the country and the Defence Forces of Georgia. In 2022, the Academy should provide an evaluation of existing academic programs, after which the programs will be updated in accordance with the requirements of the Defence Forces.

The Academy will be in full readiness by 2022 to implement a new educational program for reserve officer training.

To enhance the level of English language proficiency in the Defence Forces, the main educational units of the Academy, within the framework of their training programs, will conduct English language studies at STANAG 2+ level.

In addition, in 2022, the standards for authorization of higher education institutions will be met (reauthorization); also, reaccreditation of the Georgian language training educational program will be performed.

4. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

In 2022, scientific-research activities will be developed at the Academy. While implementing the scientific-research component, the Academy should be focused on: the requirements of the system

of the Ministry of Defence, the researches required for obtaining and implementing various grant projects supporting the undergraduate/graduate academic programs of the Academy.

Also, the Scientific-Research Center will actively continue working in the following areas: research activities in priority fields in accordance with the requirements of the system of the Ministry of Defence, organizing and conducting scientific-research conferences.

The Academy encourages the participation of personnel in international scientific conferences and scientific research activities. In addition, it will support the organization of conferences involving military and civilian personnel of the Ministry of Defence.

It is noteworthy that in 2022, in order to intensify scientific research activity, the Academy will develop an electronic library system, including access to international scientific databases, which will enable those employed in the Georgian defence system, interested in research activities, to have access to a significant part of the electronic book fund in the world.

5. DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Due to the latest challenge in the academic field, in 2022 the distance learning center of the Academy should expand its area of activity. This structural unit will play an important role in facilitating the ongoing academic process in the Academy. In 2022, the staff of the center should be trained and the experience of foreign partners should be shared. The center provides conducting the training offered for the Defence Forces, an international conference on distance learning, keeping the level of English language and to developing/implementing other necessary training courses under the requirements of the Ministry of Defence system.

Access to education will be increased for the Junkers/students of the Academy, for the military, and civilians of the system of the Ministry of Defence, through the activities carried out by the Center. In addition, the operation of the Center will help bring the Defence Forces of Georgia closer to the standards of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

6. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Under bilateral cooperation and memorandum of understanding, the Academy will continue to build relationships with universities, military academies, and international organizations in the United States, Canada, Western and Eastern Europe.

Within the framework of the cooperation, short-term/long-term exchange programs for Junkers and Academy personnel should be continued.

In 2022, the Academy should increase the number of students/cadets, instructors, academic and visiting faculty from partner countries who will be involved in the ongoing academic and scientific processes at the Academy, and curricula will be intensified.

The Academy must be ready for all possible challenges in strengthening international cooperation. In order to continue the process of deepening relations, the Academy should also provide remote cooperation with partner countries and organizations.

7. PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

To overcome any challenge facing the Academy requires not only a good leader, but also a staff with appropriate qualifications and skills. I strongly believe that competent staff is the foundation for the successful completion of any task.

Given the importance of the above, in 2022 special emphasis will be placed on personnel development. The Academy should develop and approve the concept of human resource management and professional development, as well as a strategy for attracting highly qualified academic/visiting faculty. The Academy will perform staff development activities in accordance with the human resource management and professional development concept. Highly qualified academic/visiting staff will also be attracted to the Academy.

In order to support the development of the personnel, the Academy plans to implement a professional development program, where the staff of the Academy will have the opportunity to participate in various events planned by Georgia and partner countries.

In addition, in 2022, special attention will be paid not only to the social support of the staff of the Academy, but also to the provision of various services to them.

8. LOGISTIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, infrastructure and material resources will be renovated. It is planned to create new sports spaces and additional recreational space. Facilities for military training will also be renovated.

9. INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT THE ACADEMY

To attract Junkers, students, and highly qualified staff to the Academy, it is necessary to increase the level of awareness of the Academy. To achieve this goal, the Academy plans to identify and inform the target groups.

The Academy will raise awareness of its activities and achievements in accordance with the established communication strategy by successful Junkers/students and faculty members and promote educational programs.

