

Portuguese Association

Armed Forces Officers Association (AOFA)

National Report

EUROMIL - 5th Congress and 114th Presidium Meeting

Brussels - Belgium



Preliminary note

AOFA, in its present action, expresses the need to ensure the respect with two fundamental issues:

- The principles associated with the social dialogue;
- Fulfill the Law of General Bases of the Military Condition Statute.

Under the association's mission, guided by the defense of social and professional rights of military people in general and the officers in particular, has the following priorities:

- Review of the Statute of the Military Armed Forces;
- Reset the purpose of the Social Action Institute of the Armed Forces;
- Ensure adequate sickness insurance to the military and their families;
- Ensure the proper functioning of the Armed Forces Hospital.

The main concerns of AOFA remain aligned with the electoral program and the mandate letter, and replicate the statement of the previously prepared report.



Nota prévia

A associação de oficiais expressa na sua ação atual a necessidade de serem respeitados dois assuntos fundamentais:

- Os princípios associados ao diálogo social;
- O respeito da Lei das Bases Gerais do Estatuto da Condição Militar.

No âmbito da missão da associação, pautada pela defesa dos direitos sócio-profissionais dos militares em geral e dos oficiais em particular, tem estabelecido as seguintes prioridades:

- Revisão dos Estatutos dos Militares das Forças Armadas;
- Repor a finalidade do Instituto de Ação Social das Forças Armadas;
- Garantir a adequada assistência na doença aos militares e seus familiares;
- Garantir o adequado funcionamento do Hospital das Forças Armadas.

As principais preocupações da AOFA mantêm-se alinhadas com o programa eleitoral e a carta de mandato, e replicam o enunciado do relatório anteriormente elaborado.

ACTIVITY REPORT

1. This report refers the activities in the period between January and October of this year.
2. This report is divided into five chapters, covering the various components that characterize the activity of AOFA, namely:

CHAPTER 1 - THE PROCESS INTERNAL ELECTION

CHAPTER 2 - THE SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

CHAPTER 3 - PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIAL EVENTS

CHAPTER 4 - THE ISSUES (RE) INTERNAL ORGANISATION

CHAPTER 5 - COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

CHAPTER 6 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 1 - INTERNAL ELECTION PROCESS

1. Following the elections held on 16 April 2016, in May a new administration took office. As a result of this whole process, 56 (fifty six) Officers were elected to the General Assembly (4), the National Council (31), the Audit Committee (4) and the Ethics Council (17).
2. We should point out the composition of the governing bodies, in which the most of the elements that constitute the national council, are officers in active service (20); Note that the executive body of AOFA has more than 50% on regular service.

CHAPTER 2 - THE SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

1. In continuation of the previous year, in the last ten (10) months the activity of Socio-Professional part by the AOFA had as main lines of concern and action, three main pillars:
 - The new Statute of the Military Armed Forces (EMFAR);
 - Assistance in the Disease Military (ADM);
 - Social Action Institute of the Armed Forces (IASFA), very specifically with regard to component "Supplementary Social Action (ASC)";
 - Armed Forces Hospital.

The new Statute of the Military Armed Forces (EMFAR);

1. In action of the field of new statute, the AOFA continued his struggle for the defense of the professional interests of the military, with greater emphasis on the interests of officials highlighting the matters which relate to:
 - Changes in reserve and retirement conditions;
 - The new formulas of retirement pension calculation;
 - The extinction of the Pension Supplement;
 - The new criteria's of compensation in case of exit of the armed forces;
 - The strangulation of careers, in general;
 - The new concept about horizontal carrier.

2. During the period considered it was found that despite the change of the incumbent minister of "defense" the policy orientation was not changed, maintaining the constant aggression

against the freedoms and guarantees of the military, especially those resulting from its military condition.

3. In fact, remained the entire collection of measures which further aggravated the situation already lived after the extinction of the Pension Fund, maintaining the permanent reduction of military forces and reiterated budget downsizing of the armed forces, with all the well-known consequences, which determined that AOFA qualify the statute as creator of a "statute of indigence".
4. Harmful situation continues to occur with the elimination of the possibility of going to reserve situation with 20 or more years of military service, with increases in minimum time in the ranks, the spread of promotions by choice, changing the retirement pension calculation in result of accidents in service or occupational disease, changes in the rules for granting residence allowance, the new regime with the quantitative of personnel staff in external functions and the deep legal change on the "Use and Gun License".
5. Among others, these were the issues that AOFA delivered and presented, in the written form, to the newly elected parliamentary groups, as a proposal for amendment to Statutory Rules - first in hearings with the parliamentary groups, and then, after an invitation from PS and PCP, it was suggested to present as contributions a list of priority changes later this year, taking account also sending of these initiatives to Lieutenant-General of the Military House of the President and to the Army Chief of Staff.
6. Similarly, a sequence of interpellations were requested to the MOD office, to get pronunciations about a lot of legislative proposals.
7. AOFA worked in proposals and comments on these matters, along with others, intended to regulate, adjust and modify the new Statutes for military of armed forces, always defending general interests of militaries, and in a particular way, the officers. With this, we made

concrete proposals aimed at changing the prepositions concerned, because they pronounce unconstitutionality, illegality and less consistent solutions to the military condition.

The assistance for the disease to Military (ADM)

1. AOFA continued to develop much of their effort and intervention in the highlight and demonstrate that the current situation of ADM (Sickness assistance to military) is currently disproportionate and illegal.
2. In fact, is maintained a financial surplus significant, given the unacceptable discount of 3.5% imposed to militaries, considering the various expenses that ADM supports, as operational structures. The concept of "self-sustainability" is the new trend to justify unfair situations, that we consider totally incompatible, undesirable and unacceptable in face of positive discrimination stablished in the Law of the Statute of the General Basis of Military Condition, which is a single compensation for a lot of civic restrictions.
3. So, we will maintain the position of principle, and we will continue to defend that military should not be subject to any discount by disease assistance.
4. Also in respect of tax rebates, is firm and determined the position of AOFA, to revert the support that was guaranteed the spouses of the military before 2005, abolishes without exception, all extra tax contributions.
5. We continue the complaint about the evident degradation of Health Care provided by Armed Forces Hospital, as well the constant and growing send off for Private Health Services, despite of course, services always being paid to "weight in gold" by ADM.
6. Institute of Social Action of the Armed Forces (IASFA), very specifically with regard to component "Supplementary Social Action (ASC)".

7. The AOFA reacted against the recent changes made when submitting the bill that was her gift for comment, and continued to react the same way - against such amendments - but with the Parliament (AR) requesting, in appropriate procedural terms, its review, modification or revocation and given the manifest inadequacy of such measures before the objectives and mission of IASFA.
8. In fact, even before it had disclosed the accelerating degradation of the support provided, sealing services, the lack of properly organized and transparent accounts that allow, for example, to determine what is Supplementary Social Action and what's Assistance in Disease and, among these, which detailed income and expenditure, the proliferation of parallel entities and obviously competing for the purpose of IASFA, the AOFA has also developed concrete and profuse work, being publicly known our positions and our solutions in the face for all these materials.
9. In this regard, the AOFA presented a paper-based work Seminar conducted for the purpose and which, among other relevant matters, it detailed what should be the coverage areas of Supplementary Social Action, forms of financing IASFA, forms of governance, the treatment to be given to the most valuable real estate that is owned by the beneficiaries and the legal form (legal personality and nature management) to implement a new structure.
10. It was also presented to the competent supervisory authority (court of auditors) a complaint for repeated failure to submit accounts and IASFA activity report.
11. Under the protection of the legitimate rights of the Socio-Professional Officers and Military Family they were completed by AOFA a set of initiatives that we have been giving detailed consideration to all officers through its multiple communication channels and were as follows:
 - a. Dec 2015 - Seminar on the Institute of Social Action of the Armed Forces, "Social Assistance to Military / IASFA";

- b. Jan 2016 - AOFA take position before the National Assembly on important matters and those requiring urgent solution for the Statutes of the Military Armed Forces;
- c. Feb 2016 - AOFA sends work on the IASFA to various entities;
- d. Feb 2016 - Use and carry firearms by the military: AOFA puts the military leadership the issues most felt by the military;
- e. Feb 2016 - AOFA asks the Navy Headquarters to answer questions about the interpretation of the provisions on the reservation and reform, in relation to Article 9 of Decree 90/2015 (Statutes);
- f. Apr 2016 - AOFA alert to the situation in the Armed Forces Hospital;
- g. May 2016 - AOFA institutionally presents its proposals for amendment to Statutes;
- h. May 2016 - AOFA sends to the MOD your comments to the draft amendment to the Organic of IASFA;
- i. May 2016 - AOFA Hearing with Parliamentary Socialist Party (PS);
- j. May 2016 - AOFA Hearing with the Parliamentary Group of the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP);
- k. May 2016 - AOFA presents the MOD comments on the draft Ordinance on the compensation in case of exit of the armed forces;
- l. May 2016 - AOFA sends the MOD your comments to the draft legislation on the Class Councils (councils for the promotions to new level ranks) in the Navy;
- m. May 2016 - AOFA Hearing with the Parliamentary Social Democratic Centre-Popular Party Group (CDS-PP);
- n. May 2016 - AOFA Hearing with the Ecologist's Party "The Greens" (PEV);
- o. Jun 2016 - AOFA sends the MOD assessment of the relative rights of military candidates for election project;
- p. Jun 2016 - AOFA participated at the invitation of President of the Republic in the official ceremonies of the Day of Portugal;
- q. Jun 2016 - AOFA was received in the Presidential Palace by the Chief of staff of military house;
- r. Jul 2016 - AOFA participated at the invitation of Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the official ceremonies of the day of the Air Force;

- s. Jul 2016 - AOFA was received in audience by new Chief of Staff of the Army.
- t. Jul 2016 - AOFA pronounced with the MOD on the so-called "horizontal career".
- u. Jul 2016 - News about changes to the calculation of pensions originate making position of AOFA in Medias.
- v. Aug 2016 – AOFA requires MOD report on the veracity of the news that gave changes account for the military pensions.
- w. Aug 2016 – AOFA sent to the MOD their design considerations for the Merit Assessment System.
- x. Aug 2016 - Military Laboratory was saved, for now, and the AOFA developed a set of initiatives and contacts in order to keep in operation a military unit that produces generic drugs and others to meet the Portuguese population.
- y. Aug 2016 - In view of the "will to leave" from the Armed Forces expressed by many officers, AOFA requires the corresponding numbers to MOD.
- z. Sep 2016 - AOFA issue a statement denouncing an irregular situation with promotions in ranks. The promotions to occur in January, occur in present December or later, as a measure to cover deficits imposed by unelected government designated "European Commission".
- aa. Sep 2016 - AOFA was received in audience by Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.
- bb. Sep 2016 - Military Professional Associations issues statement on the amendments to the pension system.
- cc. Sep 2016 – AOFA request the MOD questions about the lack of promotion as provided for in the statutes.
- dd. Sep 2016 – AOFA sends the MOD response of the Decree-Law project on the retirement of the military.
- ee. Sep 2016 - AOFA Hearing with the Left Group Party (BE).
- ff. Oct 2016 - Requested information to the MOD on the conditions and covers of the designated "mission insurance" awarded to the military on missions abroad.

CHAPTER 3 - PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIAL EVENTS

1. AOFA has, since forever, and in the period on consideration was no exception active participation, both in official events or in events organized by entities with which we have been strengthening important institutional ties, aimed at strengthening and the image of public credibility of AOFA, aiming to create a network of interests that can better sustain our activity and also taking advantage of every opportunity to defend directly or indirectly the interests of officers of the Armed Forces and, more broadly, the family and Military Institution.

2. And continued to be an entity invited by the Navy, Army and Air Force to be present on the day of the respective Commemorations, but we must also highlight the following holdings:
 - a. Jan 2016 - Conference Dinner at the Military Academy.
 - b. Jan 2016 - AOFA is part in the meeting of Mediterranean / EUROMIL forum in Brussels.
 - c. Feb 2016 - Former Combatants - preparation of the June 10 - the national day and Portugal day.
 - d. Feb 2016 - Sergeant Club of the Navy celebrated its 41st anniversary.
 - e. Feb 2016 - Inauguration of the governing bodies of ADFA.
 - f. Mar 2016 - AOFA invited to the closure of the CDS-PP congress party.
 - g. Mar 2016 - AOFA present at the inauguration of the governing bodies of the Socio-Professional Association of Maritime Police.
 - h. Mar 2016 - Conference "European global strategy for security and defense policy".
 - i. Apr 2016 - Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Portuguese Republic Constitution, promoted by the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP).
 - j. Apr 2016 - In Parliament: Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Portuguese Republic Constitution, adopted on 02 April 1976.
 - k. Apr 2016 - AOFA present in the Combatant Day celebrations.
 - l. Apr 2016 - Ceremony of the 40th Anniversary of the Portuguese Constitution was held in the city of Almada and had presence and active participation of AOFA.

- m. Apr 2016 - Professional Associations and Militaries Clubs in celebratory lunch 42^o anniversary of April 25.
- n. Apr 2016 - Professional Associations and Militaries Clubs integrate celebrations of April 25 in Almada.
- o. Apr 2016 - Associations Military professionals participated in the Parade April 25 in Lisbon.
- p. Apr 2016 - The village of Porto de Mós celebrates 25 April and paid tribute to the Admiral Vítor Crespo.
- q. Apr 2016 - AOFA present in honor of Salgueiro Maia in Santarém.
- r. May 2016 - Participation on 32nd anniversary celebrations of the Sergeant Club of the Navy.
- s. May 2016 - Associations and Militaries Clubs deliver Constitutions to students in Almada County schools.
- t. May 2016 - AOFA present in the National Congress of APRE (national retired association), whose theme was "The future has no age".
- u. May 2016 - AOFA present in the Navy Day official celebrations.
- v. May 2016 - AOFA present in the celebrations of the 42nd anniversary of the Association of Disabled of the Armed Forces (ADFA).
- w. Jun 2016 - AOFA present at the conference "Europe and Refugees - Risks and Opportunities".
- x. Jun 2016 - AOFA present in the Congress of the National Federation of Civil Service Unions.
- y. Jun 2016 - AOFA present on the 14th anniversary of the Combatants Association of the Portuguese Overseas (ACUP).
- z. Jun 2016 - AOFA present at the XXIII National Meeting of Combatants.
- aa. Jun 2016 - AOFA present at the 4th Conference of Socio-Professional Association of Maritime Police.
- bb. Jun 2016 - AOFA present in pilgrimage to the tomb of Commander José Barata.
- cc. Jun 2016 - AOFA present at the conference "NATO Summit in Warsaw and the new international security environment".

- dd. Jun 2016 - The AOFA in commemoration of the 29th anniversary of Asmir;
- ee. Jul 2016 - 64th Anniversary of the Portuguese Air Force.
- ff. Sep 2016 - Unveiling of virtual signpost Rotunda Admiral Pinheiro de Azevedo - Invitation of the Municipality of Lisbon for the event.
- gg. Oct 2016 - Plate Opening toponymic Roundabout "Captain April Vítor Alves" in the town of Oeiras.

CHAPTER 4 - THE ISSUES (RE) INTERNAL ORGANISATION

1. Very relevant, we understand, were the actions about internal reorganization, initiated and/or consolidated over the last 10 months, establishing itself as absolutely essential, to drive as support of the current reality and on the other hand, to allow the creation of future development conditions of AOFA. Some highlights:
 - a. Recovery of delayed and forgotten contributions of AOFA.
 - b. He went on and continues work aimed at full regularization of contributions in arrears.
 - c. It is recalled that this work has started during 2013, extending in 2014 and 2015. He keeps one of the central objectives for the period 2016-2018.
 - d. We must also remember that corresponded real increase of 29.7% contributions in 2013, which was followed by further increase of 22.6% in 2014, resulting in just two years, a real increase of 52.3% compared to 2012.

Accession of New Members and the paradigm shift in the structure Associates.

1. No news from the previous report. We are to maintain relatively stable growth rates recorded over the last six years (about 400 new partners, which gives an average of 80 new members per year), and, among these, it was found a paradigm change (in 2010 only about

15% were Officers in the active service, today surpassing that percentage to 30%. More than the double).

2. This trend was consolidated in 2015 and already in 2016 began to bear fruit, having registered this year to present date, over 31 new members. Remember the purpose of the current composition of the National Council (with the majority in active service).
3. All because the AOFA, today, is recognized as an unavoidable association in the panorama of the national professional associations, that can and should legitimately aspire to represent at the highest levels and at national institutions, to defend the Militaries, in particular the Officers and members of their families.

The Social Support Pelouro and the National Network Protocols of AOFA

1. No change from the previous situation, AOFA maintained and has further expand the national network protocols, which already has more than three hundred (300) reference entities across the country, many of the leading exponents in their field of performance, totaling about two thousand (2000) service stations throughout the mainland and islands of the Azores and Madeira.
2. With variable discounts, typically between 10% and 50% on all products and services offered by our partners, the national network protocols, expressed the concern of AOFA in creating internal conditions and guidance for this to be a theme also "priority" treatment and ongoing effort. But also as a way to enhance the commitment of dozens of associates, as well as family members who have come to answer, increasingly, the appeal of AOFA so in their areas of residence and / or work in indicating potential entities they consider of interest to come to join this network. Requests to which AOFA gives course sequence, proceeding to contacts and, in many cases, consummating partnerships.

3. The AOFA continues to issue and send, totally free of "AOFA cards" for all family members (spouses, parents, in-laws, sons and daughters, the latter regardless of age), this process is triggered from the statement of own members, that has led so far to the emission of more than five hundred (500) cards to family, allowing them full autonomy in exploiting the benefits of the protocol network.

The Cultural Pelouro

1. Whether through our Facebook page, either through permanent presence in our daily summary Press, music, concerts, books, exhibitions, theatre, cinema, gatherings, poetry, documentaries, heritage museology, history, painting and sculpture are just a few good examples of the many hundreds (some thousands) of complete and detailed disclosures promoted by AOFA.
2. The recent appointment of the sector of culture and however already structured ideas, certainly will continue to allow an innovative development activities, widening also the sports area, for officials and family, and cultural context of hits on extremely advantageous terms and quality and undeniable interest, these once again having, of course, as audience our Comrades younger and Sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of the Associates.
3. AOFA promotes regularly conducting different workshops, aimed at different audiences, with particular attention to the younger officers in the active service, the first theme "Communicating with Teens" been a successful action as well as the subsequent action "Educating for Optimism ", others of various kinds on the horizon.

The dematerialization of all heritage documents and documentary from the beginning of AOFA

1. Acquired after decision in the last exercise, the "software" of special register, document management and research, which have followed the internal training phase, has been running scanning the documents collections of AOFA, project that, given its size and complexity (each document must be properly scanned and cataloged) should occur and running over the next 2-3 years.
2. This collection, of undeniable value, it will allow by one hand, to deepen the teaching and guidance of AOFA, as is certainly an undeniable testimony of democratic activity, the same as, and finally, the proof that the struggle of the officers for a better Portugal, always lean to a valid proposal, credible and with the intention to promote the best values.

CHAPTER 5 - COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

1. The communication, the development of contact and communication strategies with our partners and with the surrounding society, has always been and will be the next and coming times, matter of constant concern for the direction of AOFA.
2. Thus the use of all means available, with their own abilities and complements, have been intensively used, with a pelouro dedicated to these subjects, with the target to study a main way to achieve the necessary skills and the use of the latest tools of communication, always observing the same end - the uncompromising defense of the interests of officials.

Mailing

1. Through our internal communications network, via email, AOFA continuous coming daily to about 6,500 officers, members and non-members, as well as to all registered family, as well as a growing range of civil and military, of Social Communication Agencies, and political parties.
2. This network was established as our preferred vehicle and most effective communication channel. One of the best examples of the daily disclosure of our press summary, who recently celebrated five years of uninterrupted emissions.

Facebook (Official Page)

1. With more than 16000 registered friends (an increase of 100% compared to that seen in 2015) and the "staggering" number of about 40,000,000 readings (an increase of over 75% when also compared with 2015), it is clearly, our main fast communication channel and interactive debate of ideas, open to officials but also to all our fellow citizens. Clear evidence of this interaction and daily dynamism are about 500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand) comments, shares and "Likes" checked in the last year (about 1370 for each of the 365 days of the year).

Blog of AOFA

1. It remains as a publishing space "specialized" background articles, produced by more than 60 (Sixty) Officials (records always open to new participants). Is permanently open to feedback.

Official web site

1. It is our historical record space of all activity AOFA, open to the community and available at a distance of a "click" on the Internet. It also includes all photo reports and videos of events, information on national protocols network, and a private space for members which may, among other features, check the status of your process contributions.

Bulletin AOFA

1. In reference to the period covered in this report, AOFA in what is more a very considerable effort, both, in terms of achieving financial sponsors, returned to the edition of his newsletter "Expressão". Not yet, consistently, but it's an intend and an priority.
2. The Bulletin, when is produced, is distributed either electronically to all members who have e-mail address, either by the same route, to all Officers (yet) Associates and numerous civil and military entities, in addition to all Network AOFA partners that make up the national protocols network.
3. Complementarily, a printed form included in the "Expressão" was sent by mail to all Members who did not have email address, being as well, as an important link that mattered to recover, as well as for all units, establishments and organs of the Navy, Army and Air Force, becoming this way a very relevant information transmission vehicle for all active Comrades and marking positively the presence of AOFA in Military Units.
4. The effort at this time lies in the establishment of a team, to make the production and in a regular periodicity.

5. Given the associative moment that we live, is expected to brief new number of "Expressão" that intends to drive as another means of communication AOFA and privileged form of a systematic approach of the socio-professional activity .

CHAPTER 6 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. AOFA intends to deepen its participation within the EUROMIL, in order to promote the collection, processing and sharing of key information on socio-professional life of the militaries. In this perspective, it is considered pivotal, center in Euromil, a set of information items, able to show the different realities of living and experience the military from different countries, and provide a set of information to enable the comparative study of different realities.
2. AOFA also considers it important, to set the level of the European Parliament, of one of the military ombudsman, to ensure the harmonization of rights and socio-professional conditions, appropriate to the proper exercise of the military profession.
3. Hit by the strengthening of the role of Euromil, as a collective entity, representative of citizens in uniform, and in national initiatives, promote its role and reveal the importance of their mission.

Carlos Jorge Serra Rodrigues Marques

AOFA representative in Euromil