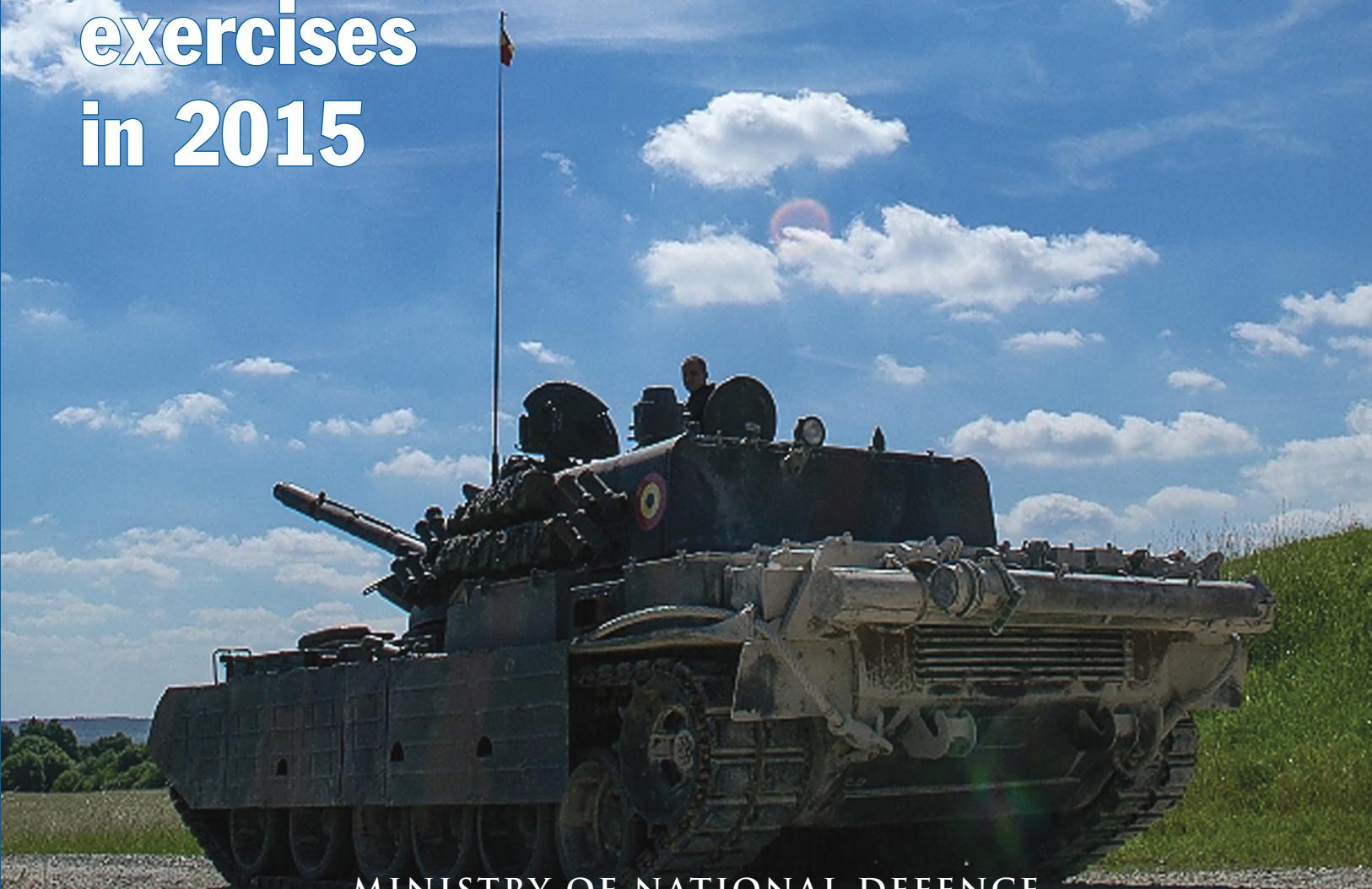


ROMANIAN DEFENCE

2015

There are over
100 planned
multinational
exercises
in 2015



Contents

- 1 | Romania Contributes Actively to Strengthen NATO's Collective Defence
- 2 | Enhanced Operational Capability – key goal of the Romanian Armed Forces
- 3 | Romania – host nation for two new NATO's structures
- 4 | Romanian Ministry of National Defence Participation in Regional Cooperation Initiatives
- 6 | Romania – the fourth contributing nation with troops in Afghanistan
- 9 | 1st CIMIC Battalion – the only specialized unit of ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES
- 10 | Romania in NATO and Bilateral Exercises in 2015
- 13 | The Naval Forces – focused on the operations in the Black Sea
- 14 | In 2014, over 2,000 Land Forces troops participated in national and multinational training exercises
- 16 | The Romanian Air Force perform jointly with the United States Air Force in Europe
- 18 | 2015 – "War Veterans Year"
- 20 | Romania – US Strategic Partnership
- 21 | NATO Ballistic Missile Defence Capability in Romania
- 22 | HUMINT Centre of Excellence



- 24 | Romanian Air Force F-16 Program
- 26 | Ongoing modernization and acquisition programs – the main objective of the Romanian Naval Forces
- 27 | NATO Deployable Module – DCM "E", hosted by Romania, ensured the communications to the ISAF
- 28 | PANHARD PVP – the most modern acquisition of the Joint Logistics Command
- 29 | CAMARAZII – "Before all, we are human beings"
- 30 | Military High Schools Synchronized with the European Education System
- 34 | Romanian National Defense College – Educating, Developing and Inspiring National Security Leaders
- 36 | MoND Facebook Page – the most visited and popular web page among Romania's public institutions

Photo Cover 1: For the first time after the WWII, a Romanian small armor unit participated in a training exercise outside the national borders, at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, June 2014

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Publisher: Information and Public Relations Directorate

Tel./Fax: +40 213195698; E-mail: drp@mapn.ro

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Photos by: MoND photographer & PR officers

Printed at Military Technical Publishing Center

C. xxxx

Romania Contributes Actively to Strengthen NATO's Collective Defence

The crisis in Ukraine posed the greatest security challenges to European security since the Cold War. After the fundamental changes from 1989 and 1990, our continent enjoyed an outstanding respite of calm, prosperity, freedom, democracy and respect for international law, cooperation and mutual help in key aspects of development and security, at a level never known in the history of Europe before.

As of 2014 though, the North Atlantic Alliance faces a new reality, a new, dramatically changed situation, both on its Eastern flank where threats continue to rise in 2015, and in the South, where a true instability arch manifests itself, in North Africa and the Middle East.

Faced with these threats, NATO gave a quick response by rapidly adopting reassurance and adapting measures to the new situation, especially on the Eastern flank. In this respect, steps are made to adopt new strategic postures, to increase the response time and to develop new command and control structures for preventing and countering the new threats, as provided by the Readiness Action Plan.

Given the rapidly degrading security environment in our neighbourhood, increasing the operational capacity of the Romanian Armed Forces became the number one priority of the Ministry of National Defence. The main condition for the sustainability of these endeavours is to increase the defence budget. The defence budget of 2014 has been the best since 2008, whereas implementing the provisions of *Acordul politic național privind creșterea finanțării pentru apărare* [National Political Agreement on Increasing Defence Funding] sets the premises for the multiannual planning to improve the response time, procurement and upgrading the existing military technology.

Training exercises, whether national or international are given a special attention and they are numerous and ample. In 2015 alone there are over 100 planned exercises. The most important of them, Trident Joust, was a first both for the Romanian but also for the Joint Task Force Command Naples, that deployed command and control elements for the first time, and it happened in Cincu.

Against the background of national and allied efforts to respond adequately to the new security challenges on the Eastern flank, Romania puts at the disposal of the Alliance a multinational command at division level and hosts a multinational NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU). This



is ready and it was highly appreciated by NATO Secretary General, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, during his visit in Bucharest.

These allied multinational structures is the presence of NATO in Romania that is visible and long-term and will play a key-role in connecting our national forces with NATO's, with vital command and control functions in situations that would require the deployment of NATO's Rapid Response Force. These NATO structures will also affirm and consolidate Romania's status as a reliable and predictable member of the Alliance, the capacity of the Romanian Armed Forces to adapt to the security challenges in the region.

NATO is an Alliance of democratic values and solidarity among member states, which is why accessing the common space of the EuroAtlantic security is one the main pillars of our country's security architecture. Romania is committed to its status as full member of the most successful political and military alliance in the history of mankind and understands that along with the benefits deriving from the situation, there obligations, which she accomplishes fully.

Undoubtedly, the times ahead will not be easy, but Romania has the most important security guarantees ever. NATO means all for one and one for all. It is something we see every day, with each measure taken, with each strategy implemented.

Romania is ready to contribute – creatively and pragmatically – to the success of the Alliance, in the name of a safer and prosperous future for all the citizens in the member states, with whom we share the same democratic values and aspirations to freedom.

Mircea Dușa
Minister of National Defence

Enhanced Operational Capability – key goal of the Romanian Armed Forces

2015 is the year when the Romanian Armed Forces go through a new phase of the joint effort of modernization and enhancement of operational capability. The increased operational capability at the level of the three Services make me state that we are continuing the ascending trend regarding all elements that define a well trained force, determined by clearly established performance standards, with a clear perspective that has also been assumed by the political leadership.

I can state that one of the main priorities of the General Staff for 2015 is the decision to implement the measures that have been established during the Wales Summit. The result of the joint efforts in setting up the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU) have been acknowledged and praised by the NATO Secretary General during his visit to Bucharest. By the end of the year, we will take important steps on making the Multi-National Division (South-East) operational.

In the context of *Readiness Action Plan* (RAP) implementation, a series of training exercises were planned and executed both domestically at the Land Forces Training Centre, Cincu and Smârdan and Babadag Training Areas and abroad in our allies' training areas and centres. I also want to mention that a series of training exercises are being scheduled to be carried out during the second semester of 2015. The joint and combined character of these exercises, the participation of the Special Forces into the land forces, air force and navy exercises, the involvement of the joint logistic structures in support of the combat actions make me state that, at this time, we reached operational and procedural interoperability when carrying out joint actions.

We performed a significant number of exercises together with our allies and partners, and I would like to mention some of them in order to better acknowledge and appreciate the efforts, professionalism and dedication of our soldiers.

“Wind Spring”, “Sarmis-15”, “Dacian Thunder-15”, “Falcon Defence”, “Trident Poseidon”, “Breeze 15”, “SEA SHIELD”, “ROUSOFEX 15” and the international exercises executed in the Black Sea area, part of NATO SNMG 1 and NATO SNMG 2, are just a few of the exercises that tested the rapid deployment capacity, the forces’ interoperability in a multinational environment and the procedures validation at the level of the planning teams confirmed the Romanian Air Force capabilities during joint NATO operations, allowed the authentication of the command and control elements, and the action and coordination capacity of the

Special Forces. More than 2,000 soldiers from Canada, Georgia, UK, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, USA, Turkey and other partner countries participated in these exercises.

The arrival, at the very beginning of this year, of the 7th Spartan aircraft completed the major Procurement Program of the Romanian Air Force with short and medium-courier aircraft. Regarding the “F-16 Multirole Aircraft” Program, we are currently preparing and modernizing the avionics for the aircrafts and the pilots are attending the training program in Portugal. At the same time, the Romanian Navy has planned the second modernization phase for the two T22 Frigates. The Romanian Land Forces are running the previously initiated procurement programs.

The three pillars that support the planning and development of our future actions are the EU and NATO membership along with the strategic partnership with USA.

An important way ahead is the enhancement of our cooperation with the other public institutions from the national security, public order and defence system by setting up common procedures and integrated action concepts, by carrying out common exercises and activities, in order to achieve an increased interoperability to ensure full success in fulfilling the national defence specific missions.

To conclude with, I would like to address my thanks to all the soldiers, officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers for their attitude, dignity and professionalism in accomplishing their missions with a high training and performance level. I recommend them to keep up the standards by continuously adapting to the concept of modern and efficient structures.

The Romanian Armed Force proved that ability to adjust to every type of situation both when participating in operations and during training activities and to act at high standards, as a reliable partner within the Alliance. I can state, without any doubt, that the Romanian Armed Force is ready to accomplish the assigned missions.

Lieutenant General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă
Chief of General Staff



Romania – host nation for two new NATO's structures

The ROU NFIU reached its intermediate initial operational capability/Interim IOC on July 2th, 2015, event attended by NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg. The inauguration ceremony took place in September.

Once operational in 2016, the MND-SE HQ will be included in NATO Force Structure, being able to coordinate the ROU and BGR NFIUs and to provide C2 for NATO forces employed in Art. 5 operations conducted in the South-Eastern flank of NATO AOR.

General framework. In the context of the Ukrainian crisis, taking into account the measures envisaged by NATO to reshape its strategic military posture for defence and deterrence, the NATO Wales Summit from September 2014 was a landmark to test Alliance solidarity in reaffirming the commitment for collective defence.

In order to ground the requirements and needs for allies' assurance, there have been identified assurance measures to be immediately implemented simultaneously with deterrence elements to counter the emerging security threats to NATO.

The assurance measures have been implemented under SACEUR's authority and coordination based on national contributions of member states, through a continued and robust program of military activities conducted accordingly with the Readiness Action Plan (RAP) focused on high priority options to ensure a NATO presence in the Eastern flank.

One of the adopted measures impacting on Romania's security is the establishment of multinational command and control (C2) elements in the eastern flank of the Alliance (NATO Force Integration Units/NFIUs) to support force integration and activities coordination for equipment, materials and supplies/stocks prepositioning. NFIUs are to be established simultaneously in the

Baltic States, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, and subsequently in Hungary and Slovakia.

The assurance measures include detailed C2 arrangements within NATO's Eastern Area of Responsibility/AOR. In this respect, the Military Committee (MC) approved the establishment of Multinational Division Southeast Headquarter (MND-SE HQ) on the national territory of Romania.

The Concept and the Action Plans for the establishment of NFIU and MND-SE HQ in Romania have been developed and approved based on the decisions adopted during the Meeting of Defence Ministers from NATO member states, held in Brussels on February 05, 2015, and the following national implementation documents.

ROU NFIU and MND-SE HQ operational roadmap. The ROU NFIU and the MND-SE HQ were established in Bucharest. The MND-SE HQ will coordinate both the ROU and the BGR NFIUs, thus contributing to the development of regional cooperation in the field of reception, stationing, onward movement and integration of NATO forces in the South-eastern part of NATO's AOR.

Accordingly, the Romanian Ministry of Defence will conclude appropriate agreements with NATO military authorities and participating nations with respect to organization, functioning, manning, administration, host nation support and other ROU NFIU and MND-SE HQ mission related issues.



➤ NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited the NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU), 2th 2015, Bucharest

Romanian Ministry of National Defence Participation in Regional Cooperation Initiatives

From a regional perspective, Romania's political-military interests cover three main strategically important areas: South-Eastern Europe, the Black Sea Region and Central and Eastern Europe. These are the premises on which Romania started to built up and continues its participation in regional defence cooperation initiatives.

THE SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE area has a strategic importance for Romania for at least two reasons. On one hand, it represents our immediate neighbourhood and we need to rely on partners with predictable and transparent behaviour, who share commune values and norms. On the other hand, as proved in the past, the South-Eastern Europe is a key region for Europe's stability, consequently supporting and assisting countries from the region in their Euro-Atlantic integration process, which is beneficial for all. The South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Initiative has been a key element in strengthening peace and stability in the region, with a dialogue aimed at building a more secure and prosperous region through close regional co-operation and sharing common values among Member Countries and Observer Nations. Since the MPFSEE Agreement was signed on 26 September, 1998, at the third annual SEDM meeting, its Member Nations have made considerable progress. The

South Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) enables the MPFSEE Member Nations to work more closely together in improving their common defence capabilities and in joining larger organizations such as NATO, EU and UN, facts that will strengthen the Euro-Atlantic ties.

The Romanian Presidency of the SEDM: challenges and accomplishments

Romania has proven an active key role within the political dialogue among the SEDM Member States during the time. In 2013, Romania assumed the Chairmanship of the Initiative for the second time, until 2015. The Romanian Chairmanship focused on two fundamental dimensions: on one hand, to continue the work to enhance the effectiveness and the relevance of SEDM as a regional player and, on the other hand, to carry on the effort to persuade the international community to acknowledge SEDM as the most relevant and result oriented political-military regional organization in the South-Eastern Europe. The 33rd meeting of the Political-Military Steering Committee (PMSC) of the MPFSEE and the 32nd meeting of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC)

➤ Photo-family from the 33rd PMSC and the 32nd SEDM-CC meetings,
March 2015, Bucharest





The Romanian Chairmanship priorities were:

- **To consolidate the international perception on the relevance and effectiveness of SEDM as a viable format for political–military cooperation in South-Eastern Europe.**
The Romanian Chairmanship continued the efforts of the previous Chairmanships in order to establish functional mechanisms of cooperation with the international organizations (UN, NATO, EU, and OSCE) by promoting SEDM as the most effective platform for discussing political and military issues and trying to put an end to the current duplication process of regional formats of political and military cooperation.
- **To endorse a new rotational chart for SEDM Chairmanship and SEEBRIG Command, starting with 2015.**
The Romanian Chairmanship supported a speed-up process and created a new rotational chart which ensures an agreed succession of leading nations for the SEDM initiative until 2035.
- **To increase the Member States' interest in supporting current SEDM projects and in launching new projects in line with the existing and future challenges to the regional and international security.**
The Romanian Chairmanship supported the ongoing projects and the discussions regarding new projects. Projects such as South-Eastern Europe Defence Cooperation (SEEDEFCO), potential participation of SEEBRIG within NATO Framework Nations Concept (FNC) and the establishment of a permanent SEDM website have been launched during the Romanian Chairmanship.
- **To enlarge the SEDM and MPFSEE with new Member States, selected from the current Observers.**
The Romanian Chairmanship promoted, based on the open-door policy, the principle of transparency as the core functional principle of the Initiative and encouraged the Observer States to accede the MPFSEE as full members, thus increasing the value of the Initiative. In this respect, it is important to mention that Georgia is in the final stage of the internal procedures in order to become a full member of SEDM Initiative and Bosnia and Herzegovina is waiting for the Chairmanship approval in order to continue the internal ratification procedures of the MPFSEE.

took place between 17 and 19 March 2015, in Bucharest. Topics related to regional cooperation, centred on practical side of SEDM projects were addressed in the presence of all members of the SEDM Initiative, the observer states, as well as of the representatives of the key international organizations (UN, NATO, RACVIAC and RCC). It should be noted that these types of debates were the last to take place in Romania since Turkey will take over the SEDM-CC and PMSC Chairmanship at the end of June 2015.

Holding the Chairmanship within these two years was a great opportunity for Romania to serve as a robust bridge among the Member States, observers and international organizations.

Cross-border cooperation initiatives

Romania's approach to the second area of interest, the BLACK SEA REGION, is based on the principles of: transparency, inclusiveness and complementarity. Therefore, our main strategic goal is to provide the region with a complete profile, open towards the European cooperation and to avoid narrow security arrangements.

The Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group – BLACKSEAFOR (BSF) is an initiative developed by the countries with a view of contributing to the further strengthening of friendship, good relations and mutual confidence among the Black Sea littoral states as well as to increasing peace and stability in the region, through the enhancement of co-operation and interoperability among the naval forces.

As stated by the Heads of States and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance at the Wales Summit, the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is a serious breach of international law and a major challenge to Euro-Atlantic security. Therefore, they decided that NATO's decision to suspend all practical civilian and military cooperation between NATO and Russia will remain in force.

Romania will continue along with Allied Black Sea littoral states the efforts aimed at ensuring security and stability in the region.

Turkey has extended an invitation to all Black Sea littoral countries to join to **Operation Black Sea Harmony (OBSH)**. OBSH represents an instrument for effective regional cooperation while BLACKSEAFOR plays a complementary role, focused on enhancing national capabilities and interoperability among littoral naval forces. Based on the OBSH Technical Agreement, signed in August 2013, an exchange of the liaison officers takes place. The second six month tour of duty has started on 1 December 2014.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ZONE is an area which connects the two strategic parts previously mentioned, ensuring the continuity for Romania's strategic, political and military contribution in Europe. Contributing to peace and confidence, fostering good neighborly relations and maintaining close cooperation among the European nations are our policy goals.

Romania – the fourth contributing nation with troops in Afghanistan

After 12 years of uninterrupted deployments, initiated in 2002 with the 26th Infantry Battalion, in Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan still represents the main area of interest and also the highest troop engagement effort in operations abroad for the Romanian Armed Forces.

On December 2014, KABUL witnessed a historical moment prepared by NATO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) since July 2013: the conclusion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Operation, a combat mission, and the initiation of a non-combat mission, NATO Resolute Support Mission (RSM). The main objective of the new mission is to train, advise and assist the development of the GIRoA, the Afghan Security Institutions, the Afghan National Defence Security Forces and local and central authorities, in order to ensure the protection of the Afghan population, a safe and secure environment and a lasting development of the country.

Over 100 Romanian troops from Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Interior were deployed at that time in Afghanistan, following thousands of their colleagues, together with the Coalition Forces, had done their best in accomplishing Counter-Insurgency Operations, mentoring and training the Afghan Security Forces, ensuring for one year command of KAIA Airport, fighting in the invisible space of intelligence battlefield, and in the clashes between the Special Operations Forces, by taking over the security responsibilities of Zabul Province and Kandahar Airfield Ground Defence Area-GDA. Unfortunately, when we say Afghanistan, we have to pay tribute to our 23 heroes who lost their lives and to remember the tens of others troops who were injured there.

Romania, as an active member of the Alliance, and in accordance with the national political decisions, increased the number of its military personnel with more than 650 (between January and March 2015) and became the 4th troop contributing nation over the RSM. An Army Institutional Advisory Team, an International Military Police Team, a Medical Team, a Force Protection Battalion and a HUMINT Group were deployed in Afghanistan and engaged in operations, in Kabul, Bagram, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar. Other Romanian military personnel such as staff officers, the



Special Operations Advisory Group, the Combined Joint Psychological Operations Task Force, C-130 Advisory Team, the National Intelligence Cell and the National Support Element, from the Ministry of National Defence as well as 33 military personnel from the Ministry of Interior were also deployed and engaged in the mission, adding up to the number of the personnel and adapting the missions to the new RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION requirements.

Romania contributed to the RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION HQ-s with personnel from the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Interior working in many areas of responsibility such as personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, communications, special forces operations, air safety, joint visitors bureau or security. Based on their background and experience gained in the previous missions, the Romanian militaries are able to plan, conduct and support different tasks, as well as to train and mentor the Afghan specialists in their area of expertise.

The Romanian Army Institutional Advisory Team, consisting in 14 officers, is part of four different Advise and Assist Teams from Army Corps to the Ministry of Defence level, and it is focused on advising and assisting ANA training and educational institutions in order to develop a sustainable military system; the team also consists of a Gender Advisor for integrating females into the ANA, in order to give them the opportunity to contribute to the development of a modern society.



Romanian International Military Police Team has the mission to enforce the order and the discipline in Bagram Airfield, in cooperation with the American partners. This is a new and important challenge considering the fact that BAF is the biggest military base in Afghanistan, a real city which hosts thousands of people and vehicles. The command and control are permanently provided by one Romanian and one American officers, guided by the principle "support, assist, protect, defend".

Strategic communication is part of the eight Essential Functions by means of which RS Mission helps the further development of sustainable Afghan governance. As part of the communication strategy, the *Combined Joint Psychological Operations Task Force* continues to play a key role within the new RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION; through its communication campaigns and the themes and messages sent, it assists the overall operational plan and increases the support of the local population to GIRoA and Afghan National Defence Security Forces. For several years, Romania has provided specialists and the Commander of *Combined Joint Psychological Operations Task Force*, the sole element of RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION to communicate directly with the local population through organic mass media – TV, radio, newspapers and internet - in order to positively influence and inform specific target audiences to support RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION and the new Afghan National Unity Government. The current mission was extended with a new task: to train, advice and

assist the Afghan National Defence Security Forces members to conduct Information Communication Activities.

A small Romanian advisory team consisting of 5 officers, together with military personnel from other 22 contributing countries to Train Advise Assist Command-North (TAAC-N), led by German Armed Forces, are deployed in Mazar-e-Sharif. Their mission is to train advice and assist Afghan leaders from 209th Afghan Army Corps, and Provincial Police HQ in the engineer, countering IED and INFOPS MOS-es.

On Hamid Karzai International Airport /Kabul, the Romanian Air Force commissioned and non-commissioned officers offer counseling to the Afghan Air Forces personnel and, at the same time, work shoulder to shoulder with their Turkish colleagues from the Air Operation Group to accomplish their activities at international standards. In the same base, a small Romanian Medical Team was integrated into Hamid Karzai International Airport Role III Military Field Hospital.

The Romanian Special Operations Advisory Group, augmented with HUMINT capabilities, continues to conduct operations in the direct support of the Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, in accordance with the RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION mandate.

The Military Intelligence and Special Operations Forces units deployed in Afghanistan act in support of multinational forces and, implicitly, in support of the national contingents as well. These structures have a clear subordination, under the command authority of the higher echelons, and the

performance of their activities is not affected by any possible adjustment or redeployment of the Romanian military contingents.

Since the initiation of Resolute Support Mission and as a result of the adjustment of the security environment, the Military Intelligence and Special Operations Forces units directed their focus on advising the Afghan military forces. However the basic missions of intelligence collection and military assistance in combat are still carried out in order to support the Afghan Security Forces in accomplishing the constitutional prerogatives needed to ensure national defence and security.

For the future, depending on the commitments of Romania regarding its participation to Resolute Support Mission and considering the experience gained and the level of cooperation reached with the coalition partners, the Military Intelligence and Special Operations Forces structures are ready to adapt to any operational requirement.

In Southern Afghanistan, where most of the Romanian Armed Forces are deployed, the continuation of the international military presence has resurrected and activated the opposing military forces, which, in spite of their diverging interests, act together and undertake terrorist actions against the Resolute Support forces and facilities.

On March 3rd 2015, the 33rd Mountain Troop Battalion "Posada", the main body of the Romanian contribution to RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION, consisting of more than 400 experienced troops, started its integration into the Force Protection of Kandahar Airfield, by joining an US Infantry Battalion, and creating Combined Task Force NO SLACK POSADA (CTF NSP), under operational control (OPCON) of the Train Advise and Assist Command-South (TAAC-S).

Its primary responsibility is to provide security in the Ground Defence Area of Daman District, Kandahar Province.

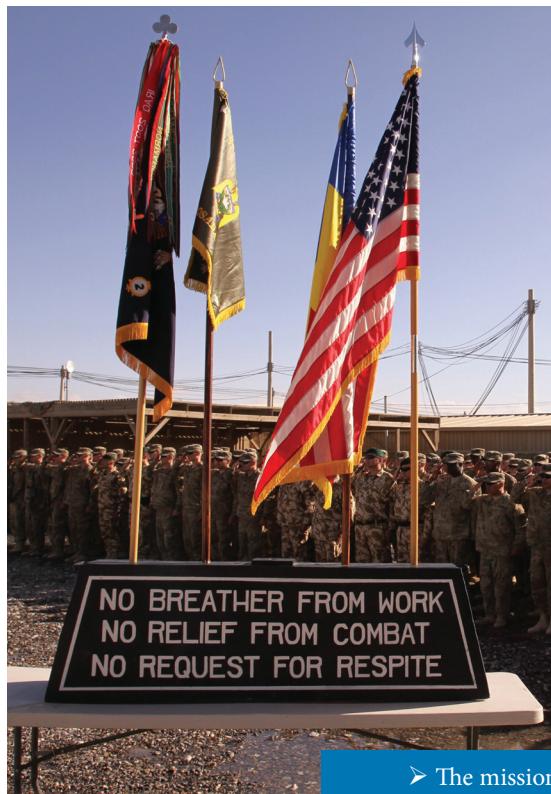
At the same time and in the same camp, working closely with Combined Task Force NO SLACK POSADA, a small but very experienced HUMINT Group was deployed to operate under Train Advise and Assist Command-South OPCON.

In this context, the Romanian forces, require a coherent, timely and efficient logistic support and this uneasy mission is carried out by the National Support Element, together with the American partner, everywhere around Afghanistan.

The coordination, in the national chain of command, of all Romanian military forces around Afghanistan is provided by the Senior National Representative of the Resolute Support mission and his team. He represents the Chief of Romanian General Staff in relationship with the Resolute Support Mission HQ-s, the contributing countries, and central and local Afghan authorities. His main task is to provide the proper conditions for Romanian military structures and personnel to accomplish their missions.

The leadership of the Romanian Armed Forces appreciates that, through the deployment of the Military Intelligence and Special Operations Forces structures to Afghanistan and the level of readiness reached, helped generated powerful military capabilities which can be committed at any time in support of multinational missions and operations.

Romania, as a credible ally, will stand firm beside NATO and non-NATO countries and will continue to participate furthermore to RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION and support Afghanistan's government, institutions and security forces, until RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION objectives will be accomplished and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will become a free, safe and democratic country.



➤ The mission of the Romanian troops now is to mentor and train the Afghan Security Forces

1st CIMIC Battalion – the only specialized unit of ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES

Modern military operations and specifics of operational environment generated a new NATO concept in tackling military challenges – CIMIC (civil-military cooperation).

The civil dimension of operational environment imposed the adjustment of strategies and objectives of the military forces' commanders in order to minimize the damages that military operations might cause upon local population.

The concept of civil-military cooperation-CIMIC-has been implemented within non-kinetic operations, with the major purpose of supporting the missions of military forces based on coordination, cooperation and consensus with representatives of local populations.

Being an active capability of military forces, CIMIC has been developed as a necessary and timely interface between military forces and civil environment in all its complexity.

In accordance with NATO's requirements, in which Romania has full membership, the necessity to establish new CIMIC specialized structures able to actively participate in all NATO operations as well as meeting all the interoperability criteria and common standards emerged.

Thus, following the order of the Chief of General Staff, beginning with, the 1st CIMIC Group was established on September 1st, 2001, under the administrative command of 1st "Dacica" Infantry Division.

Throughout its transformation process, on 4th of October 2004, the 1st CIMIC Group became 1st CIMIC Battalion; it is a specialized structure under the subordination of 1st "Dacica" Infantry Division with deployable

subunits and designated elements able to conduct various missions abroad, also designated to participate within military actions and operations other than war or counter terrorism ones, whether as part of certain operational structures (coalition-led or national ones) or subordinated to 1st "Dacica" Infantry Division.

NATO had two CIMIC headquarters for the allied forces–CIMIC Group North under command of Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and CIMIC Group South under the command of Allied Command Operations (ACO). Those were responsible for coordinating the CIMIC operations within the Alliance missions. As recognition of its outstanding activity remarkable results gained when participating in many multinational operations, missions and exercises, Romania received an official invitation to affiliate to the CIMIC Group South with operational structures from 1st CIMIC Battalion (one CIMIC Support company and ten functional specialists). The affiliation concluded in 2006. As recognition of its notable results and efficiency in support of deployable combat units, 1st CIMIC Battalion was subordinated to the Land Forces Staff in 2011.

Between 2006 and 2015, the participation of Romanian CIMIC personnel in homeland and international missions was substantial (over 85% of personnel). We must outline its active participation within the theatres of operation from Iraq and Afghanistan (NATO-led missions and coalition-type missions), and also within UN-led missions with military observers, as follows:

- In Afghanistan – within operations ENDURING FREEDOM, ISAF, ANA TRAINING, ROUSFTG, RESOLUTE SUPPORT;
- In Iraq – within ANTICA BABILONIA and IRAQI FREEDOM operations;
- In Bosnia – within SFOR and EUFOR operations;
- In Kosovo – within KFOR operations;
- UN missions – with military observers in Congo, Sudan, Liberia.

Since 2011, the battalion has continuously assigned a CIMIC platoon to the IRF (immediate response force) and another one to HELBROC partnership formed by Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus and Ukraine.

All commitments of the Romanian Armed Forces in the field of CIMIC will always be promptly and efficiently fulfilled by 1st CIMIC Battalion.



➤ Between 2006 and 2015, 85% of the Romanian CIMIC personnel participated in domestic and international missions

Romania in NATO and Bilateral Exercises in 2015

For this year, Romania has planned more than 100 multinational exercises on its territory and in multiple locations abroad along with its partners and allied forces. Romanian Military has opened 16 national exercises to allies and partners in order to reiterate its ability to fulfill the main mission of defending the national territory and to reaffirm its commitment of promoting peace and stability in the region. These engagements along with hosting the NATO strategic exercise TRIDENT JOUST emphasize the enhanced relationship with its allies and partners for collectively responding to common security challenges in the region, and also enhancing interoperability and effectiveness among participating forces.

NATO exercises

TRIDENT JOUST 2015

TRIDENT JOUST 2015 (TRJT 15) is a NATO Strategic Exercise which took place from 17 to 28 June both in Naples, Italy and Romania. Romania hosted this strategic exercise in order to better develop interoperability between NATO Command Structure elements and the Romanian Armed Forces. The purpose of this important exercise was to train and test the NATO Response Force 2015 (NRF 2015).

TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015

Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 (TRJE 15) will take place from 28 September to 06 November 2015 in multiple locations across the Alliance including Italy, Portugal and Spain. Over 25,000 troops are expected to participate in this exercise.

It stands for NATO's "High visibility" exercise with the purpose of validating Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC) readiness and NATO's Response Force 2016 as a high readiness and technologically advanced force consisting of land, air, maritime and special forces units capable of being deployed quickly on operations wherever needed.

Taking advantage of this best opportunity to train, deploy and exercise troops in a complex and distributed environment, Romania will participate in the LIVEEX-phase of this NATO Joint and Multinational exercise, with NRF 16 offered forces.

Bilateral exercises

SABER JUNCTION

SABER JUNCTION 15 is a USAREUR-led-exercise designed to train a brigade-level unit to interoperate with allied and partner nations as part of a combined operation. More than 4,700 participants from 17 nations participated in exercise Saber Junction 15 at the Army's Hohenfels Training Areas in Southeastern Germany, from April 1 to 30 this year. SABER JUNCTION 15 sustained interoperability between NATO allied and partner nations' forces gained during combat and multinational operations, while focusing on raising the combat capability for the current and future operational environment.

The first phase of SABER JUNCTION 15 started with a deployment readiness exercise and airborne operations in Romania.

This emphasized the ability to deploy within hours upon notification in response to crises or contingencies.

The exercise moved then to the Hohenfels Training Area.

WIND SPRING 15

During the multinational exercise WIND SPRING 15, several activities were planned, such as command exercises, ground combat training exercises and solving complex tactical situations.

The exercise was part of a series of joint training activities that are taking place in Romania, as well as outside the national territory (the exercise is connected to exercise SABER JUNCTION), during the Atlantic Resolve operation, in order to demonstrate the assurance measures adopted within the North Atlantic Council on ensuring regional stability and security, especially in the current security climate of the Eastern flank of NATO.

About 2,200 troops from Romania, Moldova, GBR and USA, with individual weaponry and equipment, participated between April 16 and 30 in the military drill conducted at Smârdan firing range and the Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base Administrative Centre.

The exercise had the purpose of training NATO or the partner states' troops in a joint comprehensive manner to maintain the structures' readiness level and fulfill the specific interoperability and standardization demands of NATO and EU.

COMBINED RESOLVE IV and V

Romania participated in multinational exercises planned at Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr training areas in Germany. In May 2015, Romania participated in COMBINED RESOLVE IV with more than 200 soldiers and military equipment. This will be followed by participation

➤ Live-firing of the Romanian Infantry Company at Combined Resolve II Multinational Exercise, Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, June 2014



in COMBINED RESOLVE V from October until November. These exercises focus on maintaining and enhancing interoperability during Atlantic Resolve Operation.

DACIAN THUNDER

DACIAN THUNDER 2015 is a Romanian-American air exercise conducted in Câmpia Turzii, from March 27 to July 7.

About 300 soldiers, pilots and technical staff of the Romanian Air Force along with MiG-21 LanceR, IAR-330 Puma helicopters (SOCAT and MEDEVAC) participated in this exercise. The US Air Force was involved in the exercise with about 350 soldiers, 11 A-10 aircraft and the appropriate operating equipment. The exercise aimed at increasing the training interoperability level of the Romanian and US personnel through the common use of NATO tactics and procedures, and by conducting air to ground combat missions, combat search and rescue and air defence missions as well.

BLUE BRIDGE

BLUE BRIDGE is a Romanian-Bulgarian Joint air policing exercise planned to take place from 9 to 11 November in order to practice defence measures against potential threats to strategic facilities from hijacked or suspicious aircraft.

The main objective is to improve coordination and interoperability between the Bulgarian and Romanian Air Forces in conducting cross-border operations for air traffic control and surveillance.

US Navy VISIT

USS Cole arrived in Constanta, Romania on February 9, for a port visit and departed on February 13. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer conducted a NATO Underway Engagement with the Romanian navy ship ROS Marasesti (F 111). The engagements comprised a series of at-sea scenarios designed to enhance maritime capabilities among

participating nations and typically include tactical maneuvering exercises, passenger transfers, bridge-to-bridge communication drills, and simulated threat defence with aircraft.

USS J. DUNHAM, USS ROSS, USS LABOON also, conducted exercises with Bulgaria and Romania in the Black Sea in order to improve maritime capabilities and reassure NATO allies and partners on the commitments to the alliance in the field of security.

SNMG 2 VISIT

NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG-2) is a multinational group of the North Atlantic Organization made up of frigates from Canada, Turkish, Italy, Romania, Germany and a missile cruiser from USA arrived in Black Sea in March.

The Romanian Naval Forces were represented in the common activities by frigates Regina Maria and Mărășești, two corvettes and two missile-carrier boats.

BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

Black Sea Rotational Force comprises a series of exercises and training activities with partner-nations in the Black Sea, the Balkans and the Caucasus regions, along with United States according to a Common Training Plan, in order to enhance professional military capability and increase interoperability.

Romania takes part in the first rotation of BSRF-15.1 with Bulgaria, Georgia, United Kingdom and the United States. The military engagements consist of military-to-military familiarization events in the areas of basic infantry skills, communications, logistics, emergency first aid techniques, the military decision-making process, and noncommissioned officer and junior officer development.

We participated in PLATINUM LION 15, the largest exercise that took place, in Bulgaria at Novo Selo Training Area, exercise which allowed the Black Sea Rotational Force to join together with partner and allied forces in the region to build partner nation combat capability, enhance interoperability and increase the overall effectiveness

between them. U.S. Marines, soldiers from our country, Bulgaria and Serbia participated in PLATINUM LION 15.

In Romania, exercises PLATINUM LYNX 15 and PLATINUM EAGLE were conducted in May by getting together servicemen from United States, United Kingdom and Bulgaria in order to enhance interoperability and increase the overall effectiveness between participating forces.

Romania will also take part in BSRF 15.2 exercises planned to start in August.

VIFORUL 15

VIFORUL 15 is a Romanian exercise connected to NATO exercise

TRIDENT JOUST 2015 which took place from 17 to 28 June in Smârdan Range. Its main objective was to train NRF 15 designated forces and to demonstrate Romania's commitments to NATO assurance measures.

HISTRIA 15

The joint exercise HISTRIA 15 planned to be conducted between September 7 and 18 in South-East Romania, is linked to NATO's TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 in order to demonstrate the live joint interaction between different tactical units and to promote and enhance NATO visibility and cohesion in region.



The Naval Forces – focused on the operations in the Black Sea

Taking into consideration that the existing regional security arrangements, which had been viable for more than 15 years, were infringed in the context of the Ukrainian crises, Romania – as a NATO and UE member – showed its active support for an increased presence of NATO and EU forces in the Black Sea area.

Under these circumstances, the main effort of the Naval Forces was redirected towards the development of maritime security exercises and operations in the Black Sea together with the allies. Our country has a tight cooperation plan with the USA, as part of the Strategic Partnership and an extension of “Atlantic Resolve Operation” in the Black Sea, under the name *Black Sea Resolve*.

For the first time this year, the Romanian Naval Forces organize three multinational exercises: *Trident Poseidon*, for the training of the countermine forces by using battle ships, EOD divers and Naval Puma helicopters; *Sea Shield* exercise for combat operations against surface ships and *Histria Fall Storm* exercise which involves naval, air and land forces.

Trident Poseidon was part of *Romanian Poseidon* multinational exercise whose main objective was to evaluate the Romanian NATO-designated military forces for the reaction force group of the Alliance for year 2016, *NATO Reaction Force – 16 (NRF-16)*. The contribution of the Romanian Naval Forces for NRF-16 consisted in the participation of “Regina Maria” frigate, of “Sublocotenent Alexandru Axente” minesweeper, an EOD group of divers and staff officers.

The scenario of the multinational exercise was complex, consisting of an interdepartmental collaboration with forces belonging to the Land Forces Staff, Air Forces Staff, ISU Dobrogea, Coast Guard, Oil Services Group and the Medical Department and ships of other NATO states. Besides the NRF-16 designated forces, other frigates, minesweepers, corvettes, missile carrier boats, tug boats, diving support vessels and Puma Naval Helicopters are scheduled to participate in this exercise.

Sea Shield exercise that took place in July, with the participation of the allied forces from Bulgaria, Greece, USA, Turkey and Ukraine, had as main objective the preparation of the forces for antisubmarine warfare. Three to four ships of the Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 (SNMG-1) also participated in this exercise.

The Romanian Naval Forces also take part in *Histria 15* National Exercise, the *Fall Storm* sequence, where they perform an amphibious operation together with the US partners.

Our country participates with different forces in several multinational exercises in the Black Sea, Sea of Marmara or the Mediterranean Sea, and with staff officers within NATO and UE Headquarters, temporarily embarked on military ships of partners in *Operation Ocean Shield*, *Operation*

Atalanta in the Indian Ocean. For example, we participate with a frigate and a missile carrier boat in *Breeze* Exercise, with a frigate in *Sea Breeze* and *Ramstein Guard* Exercises and with Special Operations divers in *Jackal Stone* Exercise while the EOD divers and deep sea divers who continue their training with the foreign partners in *Eurasian Partnership Dive* Exercise.

Also, the Marines conduct common training activities with soldiers from other NATO states within *Black Sea Rotational Force* Exercise.

Every year, the oldest Romanian “ambassador” of the world’s seas and oceans – “Mircea” School Ship – will have a training march with different port calls in the European harbors.



In 2014, over 2,000 Land Forces troops participated in national and multinational training exercises

Exercises are part of the collective training of the soldiers; during the exercise, the units are trained in order to perform the Mission Essential Task List (METL), so that, at the end of the year, all command and control structures be able to issue complete OPORDERS and the forces accomplish specific defence missions. The collective training of the commands and forces is planned, organized, performed and evaluated with a view of enabling the conduct of the joint and combined arms-type operations (Battle Group). The counterinsurgency training is executed by all Land Force units through platoon and company level exercises which are quarterly planned.

In 2014, over 2,000 Land Forces troops participated in different types of national and multinational exercises in co-operation with structures belonging to the other two Services. We can enumerate several exercises of this type.

“Combined Resolve II” Exercise-conducted in multinational environment in JMRC (Joint Multinational Readiness Center) – with the participation of soldiers from 300 Mechanized Infantry Battalion and 284 Armor Battalion as part of 14-2 rotation-was one of the most important joint training activity performed at Hohenfels in the last ten years, from the point of view of the scope of the activities planned to be conducted, of the combat equipment and the number of the participants (over 4,000 troops) from 13 countries: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, USA and Hungary. The activities aimed at increasing the training level needed for the execution of the international missions together with the soldiers from the NATO and partner states, the increase of interoperability level and the improvement of the work procedures. The Romanian training detachment headed by Colonel Adrian Popescu consisted of 300 troops, infantry equipment, APCs and MLI-84 M “Jderul”, TABC 79 and TR85M1 “Bizon” tanks. We can emphasize the fact that it was for the first time after the WWII when a Romanian small armor unit participated in a training exercise outside the national borders.

Another exercise which was distinguished through its novelty was “Viper Snap 2014” conducted by the Land Forces Staff and performed by 1 “Dacica” Infantry Division.

The exercise was a challenge not only for the planners but also for the organizers because it was for the first time when the Romanian Armed Forces conducted this type of exercise employing a division-level structure; the exercise was conceived so that it meet the training requirements of the participant structures but ensuring the tactical and live-simulating battlefield environment.

The *live ground* combat maneuver training exercise „Efort întrunit 14” (“Joint Effort 14”) was conducted in the Land Forces’ Combat Training Center from Cincu. Structures from the three Services of the Romanian military (Land, Air and Naval Forces) participated in the training activity together with the 4 „Gemina” Infantry Division HQs. Also, a United States Marine Corps Forces Europe (MARFOREUR) small unit from „Black Sea Rotational Force 14” (BSRF – 14) was also involved in this exercise in order to perform the combat training in an allied multinational environment.

Over 300 troops participated in the training program and used over 250 technical and combat pieces of equipment and armament to perform ground maneuvers, infantry and artillery combat firings, parachute jumps and flights with or without combat firings.

The purpose of „Efort Întrunit – 14” Exercise was to develop and demonstrate the abilities to plan, organize and execute joint-type military operations performed by the Romanian Armed Forces’ structures in common with the NATO partner states’ forces. Also, the perfecting of the C2 system, the fire and maneuver capability integration and the increase of interoperability of different structures from the armed forces’ Services were some of the main objectives of this exercise. A proper geo-strategic framework necessary to lead alliance-type defence and offensive actions in a versatile, uncertain and ambiguous political and military environment was built.

We conclude by reminding of „Black Sea Rotational Force 2014” Exercise conducted with the participation of almost 300 Romanian soldiers from 282 Mechanized Infantry Brigade, 61 Mountain Troop Brigade and 9 Mechanized Brigade and of 120 US troops. These soldiers took part in 5 LFX and FTX-type exercises in Cincu, Smârdan, Bogata and Bogza training ranges as part of „BSRF 14.3”. Also, „Platinum Wolf 15.1” Exercise and „Platinum Lion 15.1” Exercise were

➤ Romanian troops participating in Combined Resolve II Multinational Exercise, Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, June 2014



conducted in Serbia and, respectively, Bulgaria, outside the national borders. Three seminar-modules on young leaders' career development were organized at 9 Mechanized Brigade HQs over 19-29 January, 2015, and held by US instructors; over 100 COs and NCOs of the Land, Air and Naval Forces attended the seminars.

After a 6 month-training, the exercise commander Lieutenant Colonel Joel Schmidt declared himself pleased and impressed with the efficiency of the Romanian military forces. Also, he specified that "We were able to do the exact same training we do at home, which proved that the Eastern European partners are some of the best of our allies".

In his speech at the closing ceremony of "BSRF 14.3" Exercise and the opening ceremony of „BSRF 15.1" Exercise, chief of Doctrine and Training of the Land Forces Staff, Brigadier General Dorin Ioniță emphasized: „I think that type of exercise is a good opportunity to demonstrate the ability to act jointly with the other Services of the Romanian Armed Forces or in an international environment with NATO and PfP partners to develop and increase the individual and collective training levels".

In turn, the Commander of US Marine Corps Forces Europe said: „We thank the Romanian partners for all the things they do for us. I'm convinced that we couldn't have obtained the current results without your support. We were warmly welcomed, we accommodated ourselves and we are already part of your community. We must continue to train together in order to rapidly react to any kind of threat".



The Romanian Air Force perform jointly with the United States Air Force in Europe

A series of international exercises have been planned by the Romanian Air Force for year 2015, which are intended to train the NATO/EU deployable forces so as to fulfil the commitments assumed by Romania and to enable the participation in missions by contributing to the defence of the country and its allies. In order to increase the efficient participation in multinational exercise as part of the regional initiative, the exercise planners focused on complex and realistic joint operations scenarios, which enable the development of skills necessary to organize, coordinate and conduct combat operations by using NATO standard tactics, techniques and procedures.

Some exercises planned in cooperation with the neighbouring countries, have the role to train the forces that carry out peacetime air defence missions, also known as Air Policing. The purpose of these exercises is to improve the skills of the aircrews and of the air traffic controllers in the procedures used to intercept the UAVs that operate in the border region and to improve cooperation in this field. It is worth to mention the *Blue Bridge* exercise, in cooperation with the Bulgarian Air Force, *Interceptor* in cooperation with the Hungarian Air Force, and *Air Solution* with the Serbian Air Force.

The capability to execute complex missions to support the Land Forces and the Naval Forces during the joint campaign represents a priority for the Romanian Air Force and the allied air forces. A joint campaign consists in conducting air operations by employing large aircraft formations, of different

types and with specific roles, which contribute to multiplying the effects on the enemy. Such scenarios are practiced during *Dacian Warhawk*, *Dacian Thunder*, *Dacian Eagle*, *Carpathian*

Summer and *Dacian Viper* exercises, performed jointly with the United States Air Force in Europe – USAFE. In addition to these, there are other numerous international exercises organized by the Land Forces and the Naval Forces, such as *Wind Spring*,



➤ MiG-21 LanceR taking off for a training air policing sortie during Blue Bridge exercise, Septembrie 2014



Justice Sword, Furious Rage, Fall Storm, PASSEX, Standing NATO Maritime Group 2, Black Sea Rotational Force and others, which received the Romanian and the allied aircraft support both during the tactical and the training phases of the exercises. Practicing the NATO standard tactics, techniques and procedures during these exercises contributes to the increase of the training level, and the Air Force personnel's interoperability with the NATO member states' forces. During the joint training events, the partner air forces participate with F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, A-10 Thunderbolt II, C-130 Hercules, UH-60 Black Hawk aircraft, while the Romanian Air Force operates MiG-21 LanceR, IAR-99 Šoim, IAR-330 Puma,

C-27J Spartan, C-130 Hercules, surface-to-air missile units as well as radar and electronic warfare assets.

As part of the regional initiatives, an IAR-330 Puma SOCAT detachment took part in the *İşik* CSAR multinational exercise held in Turkey, on Konya Air Base, between March 31st and April 11th 2015. The exercise aimed at training in applying the tactics, techniques and procedures specific to combat search and rescue operations. This exercise scenarios were developed for various threat levels and the flight missions were carried out in a mountain environment which posed a real challenge for the helicopter crews. At the end of the exercise, the chief of the Turkish Air Force expressed

his gratitude to the participants and appreciation of the professionalism shown by the Romanian detachment.

The numerous international exercises planned to take place in 2015 are proof of the maturity and readiness of the Romanian Air Force training process, capitalizing on the limited resources available. These exercises represent training opportunities for the Air Force personnel alongside the North-Atlantic Alliance partners and highlight the capability to plan and conduct air operations, to deploy to different areas of operations, to conduct missions in support of the Special Operation Forces, the Land Forces and the Naval Forces, as well as the capability to support the units deployed in the theatres of operations.

➤ Formation flying of the Canadian CF-18 Hornet and Romanian MiG-21 LanceR aircraft, 71 Air Base from Câmpia Turzii, May 2014

➤ Personnel recovery is an important mission practiced during exercises





As a sign of recognition and appreciation of citizens' bravery and loyalty during WW II, at the celebration of 70 years from the end of WW II, year of 2015 was declared, by Governmental Decision, "The Year of the War Veterans".

For this jubilee year, the Ministry of National Defence, as coordinating structure at national level responsible with offering assistance to war veterans, wounded/disabled personnel and war widows, organized special activities in order to emphasize the recognition the veterans deserve to be given.

Documentary films and radio broadcasting sessions were made and dedicated to war veterans; the war veterans' graves were taken care of and exhibitions of pictures displaying WW II were organized this year.

2015 - "War



► Members of "Invictus România" Group and their guests arriving at the Monument of Homeland Heroes, April 29, 2015 – Bucharest



Veterans Year"



On April 29, at the celebration of War Veterans' Day, military and religious wreath laying ceremonies were organized and a Solemn Assembly took place at the Heroes' Monument.

Also, special activities dedicated to the war veterans and widows and the injured/disabled personnel will be conducted this year by the central and local public administration.

Currently there are 19,725 living war veterans and 100,000 living war widows, taking care of them being a priority for the Ministry of National Defence.

In this respect, a draft law aiming at improving the legal framework regulating their status in accordance with the recognition and appreciation displayed by Romanian society was initiated and endorsed.

Taking into account the age, health and social status of the war veterans, the Ministry of National Defence, together with the central and local public authorities, have developed social support measures to improving quality of life of this vulnerable category (war veterans and widows and injured/disabled personnel).

Several projects have been initiated and developed so that the oldest soldiers who served their country feel the recognition and appreciation of their younger colleagues. The nowadays soldiers and veterans take care of the living war veterans, the war widows and the graves of the deceased war veterans on voluntary basis.

At the same time, sports events promoting the national values and the country's veterans have been organized.





Romania – US Strategic Partnership

Ever since its launching, the Strategic Partnership between Romania and the US offered the adequate framework for the development of bilateral relations between the two armed forces, offering, nevertheless, the basis for assistance projects offered by our partner.

The development of bilateral relations during last year was also proven by an increased number of consultations and high level visits, all these being also a consequence of current security situation in Ukraine.

Bilateral relations are conducted through a good use of various instruments of cooperation. The two bilateral agreements that settle, on one hand, the usage of Romanian military facilities by the US armed forces (Agreement between the United States of America and Romania regarding the activities of United States' forces located on the territory of Romania, signed in Bucharest on December 6th, 2005 /Defence Cooperation Agreement – DCA) and, on the other hand, ballistic missile defence cooperation (Agreement between the United States of America and Romania on the deployment of the United States Ballistic Missile Defence System in Romania", signed in Washington, on the 13th of September 2011 /Ballistic Missile Defence Agreement – BMDA), bring new practical fields of cooperation along the existing programs that are well implemented at the level of our armed forces: International Military Education and Training (IMET), Foreign Military Financing (FMF), Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP), Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP).

Even more, there is a good practical cooperation at the level of the Joint Committee between the Department for Defence Policy and Planning for the Romanian side and the EUCOM for the US one. Good cooperation relations have been established within our defence Services, while US defence attachés working within the Office for Defence Cooperation/ODC provide their support in further enhancing cooperation.

The Strategic Partnership between Romania and the US, as stipulated by the "Joint Declaration on a Strategic Partnership for the XXIst Century", assumed by both parties in September 2011, in Washington, remains one of Romania's foreign policy strategic objectives.

The fundamentals of this partnership were the US' willingness and ability to reassure Bucharest and other Eastern allied capitals at diplomatic, political and military level, throughout the Ukrainian crisis. The presence of US warships in Constanta, the bilateral military exercises – TRIDENT POSEIDON, BREEZE, SEABREEZE, Eurasia Partnership DIVE – and the increased number of marines at Mihail Kogălniceanu base demonstrated the US determination to reassure Romania and its Eastern allies, also by offering an important contribution both in creating a safe environment in the Black Sea area and in increasing the interoperability between our military forces.

Additionally, on April 1st, 2015, the Romanian Parliament abolished its recommendation dated May 2007 that limited the presence of US troops on the Romanian territory to a maximum of 3,000 soldiers.

Also worth mentioning is the substantial US effort in the framework of the European Reassurance Initiative dedicated to specific projects to be implemented in Romania with ERI funds. One of these projects will provide funding for fuel supply for the Romanian ships designated to participate in bilateral naval exercises in the Black Sea.

Last but not least, we have to mention the continuation of discussions within the High Level Defence Group framework that also facilitates the exchange of information with respect to the bilateral relations with the US as well as to the current challenges to the regional and international security environment.

We may resume, therefore, that defence cooperation between Romania and the US has already transcended bilateral framework, being reflected not just at the level of the national military structures, but also at the regional cooperation one.

NATO Ballistic Missile Defence Capability in Romania

Unexpected Development of the conflict in Ukraine and the security threats of the radical Islamic groups in the Middle East raise questions that require an immediate response to the current security environment.

The appearance of a conflict in Europe, at the Eastern border of NATO, has seriously affected the belief in the inviolability of NATO and European security. Consequently, the need for further investment in NATO common capabilities is a realistic approach. As a NATO member, Romania respects its commitments and proved to be a pragmatic and involved actor by actively participating in the Alliance initiatives. In this context, and in line with security challenges reflected above, the decision to be part of the NATO Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Capability, taken by Romania along with its allies, at the November 2010 NATO Summit in Lisbon, seems to have been the best option in order to pursue its core task of collective defence.

Missile defence technology is designed to counter ballistic missiles of all ranges-short, medium, intermediate and long. The Ballistic Missile Defence System is an integrated, “layered” architecture that provides multiple opportunities to destroy missiles and their warheads before they can reach their targets. The system’s architecture includes:

- networked sensors (including space-based) and ground and sea-based radars for target detection and tracking;
- ground – and sea-based interceptor missiles for destroying a ballistic

missile using either the force of a direct collision, called “hit-to-kill” technology, or an explosive blast fragmentation warhead;

- integrated fire system with C3 capabilities that make the connection between sensors and interceptor missiles.

As we all know, the missile defence system was not created to fight a certain state, the nature of this system being purely defensive. This fact was

As part of the EPAA, the Deveselu base will stand for Romania's national contribution to the missile defence system architecture developed by NATO. On May 21st, 2014, the Missile Defence Agency and U.S. Navy conducted a test which confirmed the functionality of SM3 Block IB-type interceptors which are to be installed at the Deveselu base.

repeatedly stated at every NATO Summit after Lisbon. In Wales, the NATO Summit declaration clearly stated that *“NATO missile defence is not directed against Russia and will not undermine Russia's strategic deterrence capabilities. NATO missile defence is intended to defend against potential threats emanating from outside the Euro-Atlantic area”*.

The European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) is made up of four phases to be implemented up to the year 2020:

Phase One (2011 timeframe) addressed to short and medium range ballistic missile threats by deploying current and proven missile defence systems. Also in this phase an early warning radar was deployed in Turkey.

Phase Two (2015 timeframe) expanding coverage against short and medium range threats by placing a

ground-based SM-3 missile defence interceptor site in Romania and a more capable SM-3 interceptor (the Block IB).

Phase Three (2018 timeframe) will improve coverage against medium- and intermediate-range missile threats with an additional land-based SM-3 site in Poland and the deployment of a more advanced SM-3 interceptor (the Block IIA).

Phase Four (2020 timeframe) enhancing the ability to counter medium and intermediate range missiles and potential future intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) threats to the United States from the Middle East, through the deployment of the SM-3 Block IIB interceptors.

The Agreement between Romania and the United States on the deployment of the United States Ballistic Missile Defence System in Romania was negotiated, then signed and ratified by the Romanian Parliament in 2011. After an intensive cooperation with the US, another 14 Implementing Arrangements or Amendments to the existing ones were signed. The review of these documents was finished in July 2014, about half a year ahead of schedule. Construction works at the Aegis Ashore Facility started soon after the Groundbreaking Ceremony of October 2013. The Facility has been designated last October as a US Naval Facility, and it will become operational by the end of 2015.

This year will be a crucial one. Making the Aegis Ashore in Romania operational shows clearly that NATO BMF is taking shape.

HUMINT Centre of Excellence

As the world's oldest intelligence collection discipline, Human Intelligence (HUMINT) has a long, rich history. For NATO HUMINT Centre of Excellence, number one job is transforming the HUMINT discipline to ensure this unique capability builds on those years of experience and remains able to provide relevant, timely, and actionable information in current and future NATO operations.

Background

Within the process of NATO transformation, the Military Committee approved in 2003 the Concept for the Centres of Excellence (COEs). According to this document, a Centre of Excellence is an international military institution, hosted by one of the member nations (called Framework Nation, which represents the main financial source for the institution) and supported by other nations, called Sponsoring Nations. Each of these institutions operates independently, under the guidance of a Steering Committee formed of representatives of the Framework and Sponsoring Nations. Even though these Centres are not formally part of the NATO Command Structure, they are recognised as NATO Bodies which provide specialised expertise to the North-Atlantic Alliance, as a whole.

Capitalising on the expertise accumulated through numerous deployments to different theatres of operations, Romania offered to create such a Centre of Excellence for the discipline of Human Intelligence (HUMINT). The location for this institution was established for Oradea, a city situated in the Western part of Romania, about 15 kilometres far from the Hungarian border. The NATO HUMINT Centre of Excellence (HCOE) opened its gates officially in March 2013, and in a short time became the vector of practically all important initiatives of NATO in this intelligence discipline.

The following Sponsoring Nations participate together with Romania to the functioning of the HCOE: the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey and The United States of America.

Organisation and principles

The HCOE organisation follows closely the four main pillars of NATO transformation, namely: Doctrines and Standards; Research and Development; Education and Training; and Lessons Learned. These pillars, although seemingly separated within the institution by the creation of four separate Sections, are addressed jointly, thus ensuring the synergy of different projects and activities and the integration of the institution's responses to different NATO HUMINT requests for support, and therefore securing the coherence of the transformational efforts for this important military capability for the North-Atlantic Alliance.

In the pursue of its objectives, the HCOE managed to create and become the hub of a large community of interests which comprises organisations from the NATO Command Structure, such as the Allied Command Transformation (ACT) or the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), but also a wide spectrum of academic institutions both from within NATO, such as NATO School Oberammergau, and outside the Alliance.

The principles which govern the activity of the HCOE are well articulated in the functional and operational memoranda of the institution and cover areas like avoiding the duplication of efforts within the Alliance, adding value, resource rationalisation, implementation of NATO standards etc. Abiding strictly by these principles ensures the continuous increase of the relevance of HCOE within NATO. HCOE successfully completed one of the periodical assessments performed by ACT.

Leadership

The HCOE Director is the Chairman of NATO HUMINT WG (NHWG). He also chairs the NATO HUMINT Technology WG (NHTWG).

The director is a permanent member of:

- ACO Intelligence Board – SME advice & support - RAP
- NATO Military Authorities Intelligence Co-ordination Group (NMAICG)
- Joint Intelligence WG (JINTWG)
- All Source Intelligence Integration Sub Group (ASIISG)
- Counter Improvised Explosive Devices WG (CIED WG)
- Biometric WG



The NATO HUMINT Centre of Excellence is the **first CoE** verified and awarded with ACT's **Quality Assurance Seal** for Education & Training. HCOE is in the process of becoming Department Head for NATO HUMINT Individual Education and Training.

Building on a Strong Foundation

The Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Centre of Excellence (HCOE) began the transformation of NATO HUMINT with the doctrine, the foundation of the discipline. As custodian of AJP2.3, *Allied Joint Doctrine for Human Intelligence*, the HCOE gathered experts to review and modernize it. The updated version ratified by NATO Nations and published by the NATO Standardisation Agency in June 2013, lays the groundwork for the revisions of AIntP-5, *NATO HUMINT Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures*. Participants from across NATO Nations and Organisations are working together to outline the tactics and techniques that will successfully take NATO HUMINT collectors, called HUMINTers, from the battlefields of today to conflict zones of the future.

Putting Doctrine into Practice

The next transformational step was validating doctrine in exercises and teaching it in the classroom. Twice a year, the professional, international staff at the HCOE delivers: a NATO HUMINT Standardization Course designed to teach the Nationally-trained HUMINTers to operate successfully in a NATO environment; a Contact Handling Course to further develop the operational skills; and a Collator Course aimed at improving analytical skills. These courses offer not only high-quality didactic sessions, but practical application exercises as well. Annually, the HCOE hosts SHAPE's NATO HUMINT exercise, STEADFAST INDICATOR, which represents the most important activity of this type in NATO.

The unconditional Accreditation for Quality Assurance in education and training, in October 2013 by ACT, came as a recognition of the high professionalism demonstrated by HCOE in its activities.

Transformational Technologies

One of the most critical areas for the metamorphosis of NATO HUMINT is the interoperability of national HUMINT teams participating in NATO operations. To resolve interoperability issues, the HCOE is leading the development of a NATO HUMINT Operator Toolset (NHOTS). NHOTS will not mandate a particular brand of equipment, but will outline the operational and technical specifications necessary to achieve interoperability among different national equipment sets. The NHOTS project will be a major boon for NATO HUMINT operations, by increasing synchronization and improving efficiency. Another important project which concluded with a final report in October 2013 was the *Human Aspects of the Operational Environment*, involving researchers from the world's important academic institutions.

Commitment to Excellence

As NATO re-commits itself to operational readiness and efficiency, the HCOE, its Framework Nation and its Sponsoring Nations remain firmly committed to leading the transformation of the NATO HUMINT Enterprise.

HCOE Programme of Work

The HCOE Programme of Work (POW) has ambitious goal and aims at improving the NATO HUMINT Enterprise through the four COE transformational pillars which are the Centre's core competencies. The HCOE's major current and future projects include:

- Directorate (in 2014, 264 personnel from 23 NATO nations were trained within the centre)
- Doctrine & Standards
- Concept Development & Experimentation
- Education & Training Lessons Learned & Publications





Romanian Air Force F-16 Program

Following the contract signed in October 2013 with Portugal, for the purchase of 12 F-16 aircraft, Romania became the 27th country to introduce the F-16 Fighting Falcon in service. The Romanian Air Force F-16 acquisition program is an essential element for transformation, introducing a new operation, training and logistic support philosophy. The whole program is already the main driver for the Air Force transformation and training process, as its influence will generate major changes, from the personnel education and training in the Air Force Academy to the command and control system. Virtually every important domain of the Air Force will feel the ripples of change generated by the acquisition of this advanced combat aircraft, one of the most effective in the aviation history.

The start of the program generated a frantic activity in the Air Force as the changes are vast and very complex. The lessons learned from other past programs were studied and applied, contributing to the development of a complex matrix of actions, carefully sequenced to put each piece of the puzzle in the right place, at the right time.

The update of the regulations to incorporate the F-16 operations specifics, the personnel selection and prerequisite training, the design and the construction work for the infrastructure needed to provide an optimal operating

environment, are among the first and most important steps that are have been taken up to this moment. The process is very convoluted and requires a careful thinking to prevent any potential inadvertencies, to make a wise use of all the available resources. All the actions are run according to a very tight schedule, carefully planned and supervised by the Romanian Air Force Staff.

One of the first major milestones of the program was already achieved and is progressing very well. The first wave of pilots, mission planners and maintenance personnel left Romania in October 2014 and is currently being trained in Portugal. As the academic phase, simulation training, aircraft practice and flying training are running very smooth, without any setbacks, it was confirmed that the initial estimate, screening process and preparations were done right, leveling the way for the follow-on training.

The Air Force personnel were motivated by the successes recorded so far and stepped up the efforts, particularly in the fields of English, physical training and flying training. All these are determining prerequisites for success, being reinforced by the sheer determination, the enthusiasm and the pride of the people to be the first Romanians to operate one of the best combat aircraft of the world.



In 2016, the first F-16 painted in the Romanian Carpathian Ghost colors, wearing the red-yellow-blue roundels and having a Romanian pilot at controls, will touch down on a Romanian runway.

The advantages to be part of the most powerful alliance became obvious as the Romanian Air Force was supported by the allied nations from the very beginning of the program. Besides its contractual obligations, Portugal has put a lot of effort and dedication to contribute to the success of the program. The neighboring countries that operate the F-16, like Poland and Turkey, are sharing their valuable experience, gathered by operating the aircraft in very different environments. The United States Air Force is of great help in providing essential details and the expertise needed to stand-up the F-16 force. All types of information and support are welcome, the experiences are compared and the most appropriate solution for Romania is quickly taken into account and considered for implementation.

Time is running fast and there is about one year left until the first F-16 painted in the Romanian Carpathian Ghost colors, wearing the red-yellow-blue roundels and having a Romanian pilot at controls will touch down on a Romanian runway. Until then, there will be dozens and dozens of coordination meetings, many sleepless nights and a relentless work of the Romanian Air Force people. And that epic first Romanian F-16 landing in Romania is only the beginning, a new dawn for the Romanian Air Force.



➤ LTC Constantin Andrei ready to start up the engine of his F-16, Monte Real Air Base, Portugalia



➤ MAJ Mihaiță Marin seconds before touch down at the end of a successful flight, Monte Real Air Base, Portugalia



➤ LTC Constantin Andrei during a training sortie with an F-16 aircraft, Monte Real Air Base, Portugalia



➤ LTC Cătălin Micloș ready to taxi his F-16 fighter, Monte Real Air Base, Portugalia

Ongoing modernization and acquisition programs – the main objective of the Romanian Naval Forces

In the current regional context, the large number of training activities in the Black Sea together with the allies and the continuation of the modernization process are priorities of the Naval Forces for year 2015.

The development of the training process, the continuation of modernization programs, and the supplying of necessary resources for the planned activities represent the main guidelines of the Naval Forces. For example, by running "Regele Ferdinand" and "Regina Maria" frigates' modernization program initiated since the moment they were procured by the Romanian Naval Forces, ten years ago, the two ships will have unlimited operation and action capabilities, as pledged to NATO and EU.

The program stipulates the consolidation of surface and antisubmarine warfare capabilities, the installation of necessary sensors and the modernization of their command center.

The modernization program of the T22R frigates is being approved at national level, the discussions, negotiations and procedures being at a quite advanced level. The Naval Forces Staff is currently developing the capabilities of IAR 330 Puma Naval helicopters that can be used onboard the T22R frigates for the accomplishment of the following missions under tactical conditions at sea, during the day and at night, under rough meteorological conditions: antisubmarine warfare, surface warfare, search and rescue, logistic support, material and combat equipment transportation, vertical replenishment, personnel transportation, transport of injured

soldiers on stretchers and insertion and rapid extraction of the special forces.

Another main objective is the acquisition of the multipurpose corvettes, a very important naval project, given the security situation in the Black Sea area.

The Naval Forces plan to create a force structure capable of facing the risks and threats specific to the new security environment in the region, which must be interoperable with North Atlantic Alliance and EU naval military structures.

The current structure of the Romanian Naval Forces corresponds to the operation concept on the accomplishment of objectives and missions which derive from the defence of the naval interests of Romania, but the existing capabilities are at a minimum. When defining the future force structure, one should pay attention to the fact that Romania's NATO and EU membership does not exclude the necessity of having and training a package of forces that can assure a proper and quick response against any attack on the national territory, until the arrival of the NATO forces.

This year we celebrate 155 years since Alexandru Ioan Cuza developed the modern Romanian Navy, in 1860. We will continue to adapt our actions to the current context, through high efficiency standards, transparency and objectivity, by actively contributing to ensuring the maritime and riverine security of Romania, to promoting and developing naval diplomacy in the Black Sea and in any place where our country has interests.

► "Regina Maria" frigate will be modernized this year



NATO Deployable Module – DCM “E”, hosted by Romania, ensured the communications to the ISAF

The Communication and Information Command (CIC) was established in 1942 and is the communications and informatics structure at operative level, directly subordinated to the Chief of General Staff, designated to implement, exploit and maintain the communications and informatics system at strategic level in order to exert the operational and administrative command and control of the Romanian Armed Forces at peace, crisis and wartime.

The transformation process of the Communication and Information Command once Romania joined NATO consisted in the reorganization of its structures and capabilities with a view to properly accomplishing the complex task of ensuring connections. From this perspective, the best solutions have been searched to achieve optimal structural and organizational performance for the CIC.

The result of the above mentioned transformation processes, at national level, was the establishment and hosting on the Romanian territory of the deployable NATO CIS Module – DCM “E” of 2 Signal Battalion,

which provided the communications and informatics support to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) within the “Resolute Support” – Kabul mission through July 2014 – January 2015.

Currently, the Communication and Information Command is actively involved in the responsible and pragmatic accomplishment of the international commitments that have been undertaken by the Romanian state for the implementation of NATO Wales Summit decisions, especially with respect to making the structures located on the Romanian territory operational.

The Communication and Information Command actively participates every year in the major national and multinational or bilateral NATO/EU exercises. By reviewing certain missions, the attention is focused on giving a more consistent



communications and informatics support to the Land Forces.

The Communication and Information Command participates, under the Communications and Informatics Directorate coordination, in the development of national capabilities by conducting the activities associated to the Capability Targets implementation process and shows interest in participating in the Smart Defence concept as part of the CIS e-Learning Training Centres Network project, thus contributing to the training of the national CIS specialists by using informatics means in e-learning with CISCO Academy of the Communications and Informatics Training Center “Decebal” -Sibiu.

To accomplish all the assigned tasks, the Communication and Information Command will get more and more involved in achieving the main modernization and optimization goals of the Romanian Armed Forces’ Communication and Information System.



➤ NATO Deployable Module – DCM “E” Equipment

PANHARD PVP – the most modern acquisition of the Joint Logistics Command



The Joint Logistics Command has been using a new type of vehicle, PANHARD PVP (ATBTU), meant to solve the different types of problems faced by the military personnel (from subordinate units and logistic support sub-units), thus meeting the requirements of the theatres of operations.

The equipment was procured by the Romanian Armed forces beginning with 2013, when the first group of 5 vehicles was delivered and, by the end of 2015, our military will have had procured 16 PANHARD PVP vehicles.

The vehicle is manufactured by PANHARD DEFENCE-France, a widely known producer with a vast experience in producing military vehicles, thus being the main contractor of the French armed forces for the armored wheeled vehicles.

At present, the French Armed Forces have over 1,000 PANHARD PVP vehicles, which are currently used in Afghanistan and Mali theatres of operations.

This type of vehicle is designed for conflict areas, as it is maneuverable in the urban environment. It was designated for narrow streets, having a high mobility for rough terrain / ground and an excellent capacity to cross over obstacles.

The PANHARD APC vehicles are the newest armored resources equipping the Joint Logistics' Command that have been rendered operational. They are equipped with having frequency hopping modes Harris radios and third generation communication systems that can provide integrated communication and Information technology (IT) services, by using "Voice over IP" technology.

The vehicles are also equipped with new generation MARS radio routers, all integrated in a VCOM digital intercommunication system which provides voice services, radio communications and IT services for all crew personnel, during the combat or logistic support missions. The vehicles can be interconnected with any communication or IT system that uses IP technology, which makes them compatible and interoperable with the latest generation armored vehicles used by the NATO forces.

The technical capacity and the safety offered by the armor plating and the increased maneuverability help the Joint Logistics personnel execute a wide range of missions.

The vehicle can have an electric winch which allows towing operations in case of getting stuck or immobilized. This winch can be used from a certain distance by a device control and it can be mounted in front or at the back of the vehicle. Also, the vehicle has a 1,500 kg towing capacity.

Taking into account all the technical specifications of PANHARD PVP vehicle, the acquisition will continue within the Romanian Armed Forces will continue its acquisition process by modernizing the existing equipment.

Car body: Made of pieces of steel with 6 mm metal elements added to the inside and welded together; on the outside, it has 13 mm thick ceramic panels. The APC has 2nd A level of ballistic protection (according to the specifications made by the STANAG 4869) for the crew, 2nd B level of protection against IED and a 1st level of protection for the engine.

Weapons: A 7.62 mm PKMS machine gun is installed on the vehicle turret. The turret can be rotated at 360° with the possibility of being locked at every 12°. Special devices which hold the weapons in place are assembled on the inside.

Engine: Diesel IVECO F1C, with direct fuel injection, 160 CP. The engine can use F34- F63 unique fuels.

Transmission: 4x4 non permanent, 5 Speed Automatic Transmission, AUVERLAND A80 distribution box improved with electrically maneuvered devices.

Brakes: assisted hydraulic brake system (Double circuits) and ETC.

Steering and suspension: Electronic assisted steering and triangle suspension.

Propulsion: PANHARD PVP system is provided with 255 /100 R16 XZL tires with Hutchinson Runflat system.

Climate control: Automatically controlled air-conditioning system, adjustable between 16° C to 30° C.

CAMARAZII – “Before all, we are human beings”

Romanian Military Charity Association „CAMARAZII“ (COMRADES) focuses on providing social and medical support especially to wounded, disabled and dependants of deceased military personnel in missions abroad.

The Association consists of over 20,000 members, from all structures, Services and military branches, retired personnel and other civilian members and sympathizers.

Under the motto “Before all, we are human beings”, the Association helps comrades with social vulnerability to overcome the problems they face.

During its 7 years of existence, the Association has helped solve over 500 severe medical and social cases, such as: support for solving severe medical cases, medical devices' acquisitions, social aids for deceases, support offered in case of floods, fires, earthquake and other natural disasters, social support for orphans until they reach the age stipulated by law, the organization of events dedicated to wounded or deceased comrades' children and so on.

Last but not least, it is worth mentioning that “CAMARAZII” Association has been running projects dedicated to volunteers, to the promotion of national values and group cohesion improvement such as: cultural, sport and recreational



➤ Educational program “To learn smiling!” developed by the Romanian Military Charity Association „CAMARAZII”

events, environmental protection, educational services for children and other activities meant to facilitate best practice exchange and to encourage the association for common purposes.

“CAMARAZII” Association provides organizational, logistic and financial support to the events dedicated to war veterans, disabled personnel and to the war widows. As a sign of recognition and appreciation of citizens’ bravery and loyalty on the Second World War battlefield, they are periodically visited by volunteers of the Association.

For its exceptional activity, the Association was declared by Government Ordinance in 2012 a public utility organization.



➤ Old persons' house visit



➤ Voluntary work for environmental protection



➤ Christmas Tree Celebration

Military High Schools Synchronized with the European Education System

**“Mihai Viteazul” National Military College
from Alba-Iulia: Partnerships with similar
high-schools from many European countries**

Throughout a period of 95 years of existence, there have been more than 6,000 graduates who studied in the military college under the motto “Non scolae sed vitae discimus”. Nowadays, the implementation of this well-known Latin motto implies preparing our students in the European context and developing abilities required by the contemporary world. The European dimension has been implemented in our college since 2002, when the



➤ The students of „Mihai Viteazul” National Military College

first Socrates partnership was implemented. During 2002-2013, two Socrates-Comenius partnerships were developed, which brought the acknowledgement of the college at both European and national level. Due to this fact, the college was granted the “European School” title twice, in 2006 and 2012.

During 2013-2016, the National Military College “Mihai Viteazul” from Alba Iulia has been involved in two *Comenius* projects and an *Erasmus+* one. The bilateral partnership in French entitled “Trois langues, deux cultures, une même famille latine” between Romania and an Italian educational institution offered both the students and the teachers the opportunity to compare the culture, language and history of the two nations with common roots. Likewise, it gave them the chance to improve the linguistic competences and to enrich their culture. Within the project meetings there were involved 21 students and 4 teachers from each partner institution.

The partnership in English entitled “Mens sana in corpore sano: Let’s find the balance” is currently being developed, along with other high-schools from Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey. The project aims at making the young generation become aware of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. The students are encouraged to develop their team work skills and to actively get involved in the problems of the community. The seven project meetings were attended by 28 students and 10 teachers and consisted in workshops, documentary visits, debates and practical activities, all of which contributed to a beneficial experience exchange for both the participants and the schools involved.

The military staff and teachers’ constant preoccupation with their professional development has been materialized in the Erasmus+ project entitled “The implementation of the European quality in the school through tradition and innovation”. 21 teachers and military staff will benefit from courses in European university centres as part of this project.





Aware of the fact that our mission is to form the future leaders, we pay close attention to our students' multi-purpose development. The scientific activity and the basic military training are completed by numerous sport and artistic activities, which contribute to the further development of future soldier's personality. In our college, there are fifteen sport teams, a folk dance group, a theatre club, a medieval and modern dance group, a vocal group, a literature club, an ecotourism club and a debate group, within which our students prove their abilities and discover new opportunities for their personal development.

Scoring high results is a tradition in our school. The students' close selection and thorough preparation give them the opportunity to obtain among the best results in scientific contests, as well as in the sports and artistic competitions. Among the graduates of the National Military College "Mihai Viteazul" we should mention some of them that scored excellent results throughout their high school years and succeeded in reaching to the final stages of the national contests: Emil Curta – Physics, Alexandra Oltean – History and Chess, Mirel Stancu – Geography and French, Vlad Ţchiopu – Physics and the Earth Science. All these students, together with other 92 students benefitted from participating in Socrates-Comenius projects, thus succeeding in promoting the values of the Romanian military educational system at a European level.

We closely follow our graduates' professional development, more than 92% being admitted to the military academies and many of them benefitting from the Erasmus Programme, thus studying in European universities. One can say that the experience gained in the Socrates – Comenius partnerships has been enriched through the Erasmus Programme.

The National Military College "Mihai Viteazul" has responsibly undertaken the mission that it has been assigned

within the Romanian Armed Forces by preparing the future leaders according to the European educational system, as well as guiding them through the complex process of having their professional skills developed in the context of a society based on knowledge.

"Dimitrie Cantemir" Military High School from Breaza: A brand of educational excellence

In a competitive, open-minded knowledge-based society, "Dimitrie Cantemir" Military High School, which will celebrate 103 years of existence, is the supporter of an ever-changing kind of education, offering every young man the chance to achieve self-excellence, in a stimulating environment.

All the 19 classes have a military profile, specializing in Mathematics and Computer Science, being the only high school of this kind from the county. At present, 453 students are enlisted, the teaching staff consisting of 29 teachers, most of them permanent teachers with "Gradul Didactic I" – the highest level recognized by the Ministry of Education.

"Dimitrie Cantemir" Military High School has chosen innovation, creativity, open-mindedness, modernism, teamwork, competitiveness and excellence in education; all of these coincide with the beginning of the changes in the Romanian society and with the Euro-Atlantic integration.

All these are proved by the two European projects in which both teachers and students from the high school were involved: "Pride and Prejudice" (2009-2011), with 8 other schools from 7 European States (Belgium, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Romania and Turkey) and "Music Matters" (2011-2013) in which 6 countries from the EU were involved (Belgium, Switzerland, Lithuania, Spain, Sweden and Turkey).

"Pride and Prejudice" had as objectives knowing and analyzing the prejudices and the stereotypes specific to the countries involved, and, as much as possible, deconstructing and transforming them into a completely positive attitude of accepting unity in diversity and pluralism, so that national symbols should be used as bonds for true European values: tolerance, friendship, team work, freedom of speech, self-identity.

With the help of the second multilateral Comenius Project "Music Matters", both students and teachers from the 6 participating schools had the possibility to get to know other cultures and school systems, to have an intercultural dialogue and to develop international teamwork skills. Through music, they succeeded in creating the spiritual bonds required by a solid relationship. Just like, the instruments from an orchestra cannot harmonize themselves into a similar tune when the conductor is missing; if it weren't for the common effort of all teams and the involvement of all actors, the idea of this project would remain an isolated note on a stave.

These European projects, meant to facilitate a complex development of the students' personalities, were rewarded

with the “European School-2012” title, which was renewed in 2015.

“Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School has successfully managed to integrate itself into the European dimension of a modern system of education, receptive to innovations, being promoted at county, national and international level, due to the exceptional results that our students obtain.

The main objective of the school is the development of the students’ personality so that they may easily be integrated in the military labor market. This thing is pursued through an individualized development of skills and competences, which ensures successful professional routes.



➤ The students of
„Dimitrie Cantemir”
National Military College



“Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School was the first educational institution in the country to reach the level of “Excellence” in education, as a result of ARACIP evaluation in October 2011, achievement that turned this high school into a pre-academic educational institution of the Romanian educational system, position reinforced by the results of our students at the Baccalaureate exams and university entrance examinations (in the past three years, all our students passed their graduation exams and were accepted into military academies and civilian universities).

Year after year, our students are awarded prizes at national and international school contests. Student Sorina Potcovaru obtained a “Mention” at the International Reading School Contest, and Alexandru Buterez obtained the extraordinary performance of being the 7th WUKF Karate World Championship for children, cadets and juniors from

Szczecin, Poland. In 2014, Alexandru also obtained a gold medal at the National Karate Championship and another gold medal, a silver and a two bronze medals at the European Karate Championship.

Other 34 students obtained awards at the national school contests throughout the last 5 years.

Competence, performance and professionalism are essential landmarks which have contributed throughout the years to rendering an overall image our institution regarding its achievements and its potential which offers the guarantee of success. All these have been acknowledged when “Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School was invited on the 3rd of November 2012, in Bucharest, to join the “100-year old High school Alliance”, an elite organization, formed by the 52 most prestigious Romanian Pre-academic educational institutions.

For our results scored at the national and international contests, between 2013 and 2014, we were awarded “The Diploma of Excellence” by the Minister of Education. For the dedication and effort to achieve performance standards and the 100% graduation rate (at the Baccalaureate examsa0 throughout 2011-2014, we were also awarded the “Diploma of Merit”, by the School Inspectorate of Prahova County.

“Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School developed its own brand substantiated on its unique military profile and dynamics at European level.

“Dimitrie Cantemir” Military High School is a modern institution, capable of rapidly and efficiently reaching the new goals stipulated by the educational reform and the expectations of the Ministry of National Defence in order to achieve compatibility with similar educational institutions within NATO.

“Ştefan cel Mare” Military High School

from Câmpulung Moldovenesc:

An European School

The Military High School “Ştefan cel Mare” in Câmpulung Moldovenesc continues the tradition of The Military High School “Ştefan cel Mare” established in Cernăuți by High Royal Decree on November 25th, 1924. There have been over 11,000 graduates in the history of the institution. Most of them pursued a military career, more than 200 of which were promoted to brigadier general rank and 10 became heads of central military structures. 15 officers, graduates of our high school, were decorated with “Mihai Viteazul” Order as a reward for their bravery on the battlefield in World War II. Many other graduates of this high school have become well-known personalities in different fields of activity such as science, economy, culture etc.

Today, “Ştefan cel Mare” Military High School from Câmpulung Moldovenesc offers modern and efficient education by implementing solid educational projects and programs and a viable quality management. These actions are constantly supported through good logistics and qualified human resources.

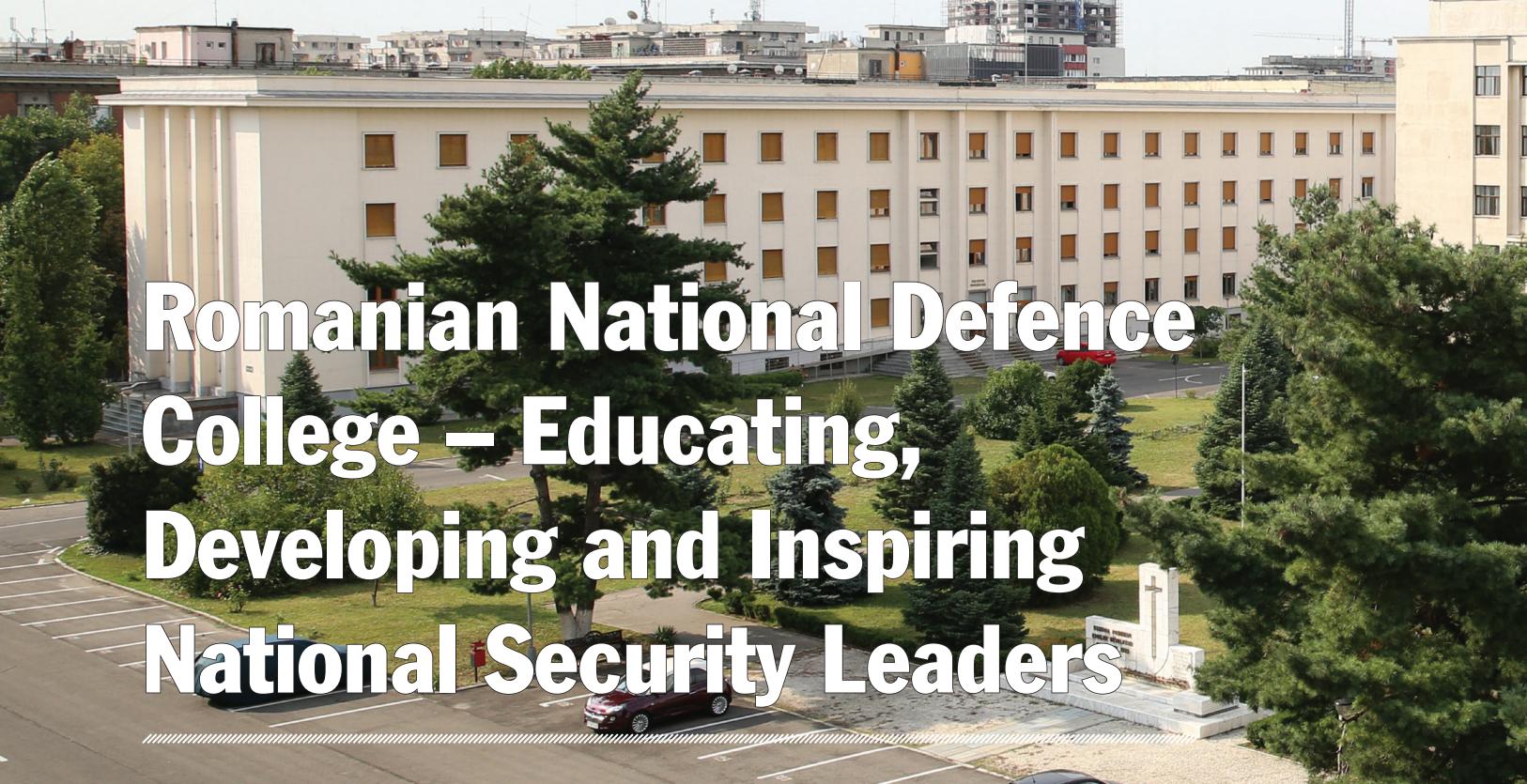
According to our mission, which is to prepare graduates able to attend a military academy, the students of this high school have proved their efficient education by obtaining very good results both at the baccalaureate (promotion rate has always been 100%) and at the military academy entrance examinations. Furthermore, the awards and distinctions received by our students at national contests and sports competitions have confirmed, year by year, the quality of the military education of this institution.



“Ştefan cel Mare” Military High School aims at personal and multicultural development with a view to transmitting European values and models. Students also participate in various extracurricular projects and programs. Students’ literary and scientific preoccupations are demonstrated in scientific sessions as well as in different publications of the military high-school.

“Ştefan cel Mare” Military High School is involved in European projects and programs with European educational institutions. Teachers and students participate in international mobilities. As a sign of recognition of the remarkable performance in European cooperation programs and of the contribution in promoting the European dimension of education, the Minister of Education awarded the institution the *European School in 2013* certificate and trophy. The institution also received the *Diploma of Merit* for the significant efforts made both by teachers and students in order to integrate Romanian educational system into the European one.





Romanian National Defence College – Educating, Developing and Inspiring National Security Leaders

The National Defence College (NDC) is a higher education institution established by the Romanian Ministry of Defence, intended to facilitate high-level training, education, and the development of national security strategy. NDC will be the first national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship. The college's mission is to support joint higher learning in national security matters by providing professional training and education to members of the Romanian Armed Forces and selected interagency civilians in order to develop leaders that have the ability

to operate and creatively think in an unpredictable and complex world.

The decision taken in 1992 by the Ministry of Defence to set up the National Defence College enjoyed from the very beginning a wide appreciation. Using as source of inspiration the similar institutions from the NATO member countries, the Romanian NDC was established in order to meet two needs. On one hand, after 1989, the Ministry of Defence wanted the Romanian public opinion have a correct understanding of the security and national defence matters. On the other hand, the civil society and the new political class needed to be educated in order to get access to a

domain forbidden for study, debate and understanding until that time.

The establishment of the National Defence College was perceived by the civil society as a major contribution to the integration of the military institution into the social and political system of the state. So far, 1738 students have graduated the courses of the National Defence College, 40 of which are foreign students from NATO and EU member states, and the ratio between the military and civil course members has changed each year in the benefit of the latter.

The National Defence College organizes three different courses: introductory course, main course and

high-level course. Those are all post- academic studies and attendance is mandatory. The students must pass an exam in order to attend the courses organized by NDC.

“Security and good governance”

It is designated for military (general officers) and civil (ministers, state secretaries, deputies, senators, ambassadors) personalities and it focuses on extremely current issues for Romania.



➤ Students of the National Defence College



“Current issues of national security”

It is designated for military and civil specialists that hold or will hold high-level management positions. The course tackles both theoretical and practical aspects of national and international security. It aims at a better understanding of the theory and practice of good governance with its main characteristics.

“Introduction to national security”

It is mainly intended for young military and civil experts at the beginning of their career, with a view to offering them the possibility to better understand international relations and security studies.

The National Defence College is an internationally recognized graduate-level university; education is its business, national security is the focus, leaders are the essence. The NDC is an academic excellence hub which promotes a culture of diversity, trust, honesty, and ethical conduct. It fosters and promotes an environment that nurtures self development and physical well-being and encourages lifelong learning. The NDC will always foster collaborative, transparent, and inclusive processes and decision-making activities

consistent with legal lines of authority and accountability.

The NDC will be a major institution of the country, distinguished due to the subject matters taught. It will meet the needs of the senior leadership from various segments of the society, both domestic and international, in comprehending security issues and policy & strategy formulation. The National Defence College will promote free and open academic debates in the service of the society.

The National Defence College is strongly supported by NDC Foundation

which is a nonpartisan philanthropic organization, committed to enhancing human security and global stability by investing in the education and leadership development of national security professionals studying at the NDC. The Foundation's mission is to raise awareness and increase support for NDC. The Foundation brings together dedicated individuals, corporations, and NGOs to ensure that the NDU community has the necessary resources to cultivate excellence in the next generation of global security leaders.

➤ Military and civilian personnel attend the courses of the National Defence College



MoND Facebook Page – the most visited and popular web page among Romania's public institutions



The Ministry of National Defence was awarded this year by the National Agency of the Public Servants as part of the project entitled “Transparency and quality in the public administration through social media” for best practices in using social media tools in the public administration; the MoND official Facebook web page was declared by the organizers “the most visited and popular web page among Romania's public institutions”.

The project developed by the Information and Public Relations Directorate (IPRD) of the MoND was launched in 2012 by designing certain official web pages within Facebook, Twitter and You Tube social media platforms. It all started from the need to answer the community's questions about the missions of the Romanian Armed Force's soldiers and to increase on-line communication.

One of the main goals of MoND presence in the social media platforms was to bring the Romanian Armed Force to the attention of the civilian society for a better understanding of the military phenomenon and to share common values such as patriotism, respect for profession and fellows.

The success of the MoND Facebook Page development was due to several interactive events which involved certain target categories (such as “Ziua Armatei României în școli”, “Ordin de incorporare la Mall”, “Armata – O școală altfel”, “Fii tu Eroul din poveste” etc.), to certain competitions organized: (Concurs de Eseuri dedicat

ZILEI NATO, Concurs cu prilejul Zilei Naționale a României, Concurs cu tema “Propune cel mai bun slogan” dedicat evenimentului desfășurat de MAPN cu ocazia Zilei Internaționale a Copilului), to certain information campaigns: (“Stele pentru veteran!”, “100 de ani de la declanșarea Primului Război Mondial”, “Înainte de toate, suntem OAMENI!” – 2% pentru Camarazii tăi!), as well as to the participation

media networks, which display false information about the military field or denigrate the MoND;

- Communicating with audience categories that do not use traditional media communication channels and sending the messages in an environment where the classic communication means cannot be used;
- Attracting the youth to the military career:
 - Getting a rapid and efficient feedback by interacting with the web page public;
 - Sending messages directly to the target audience without using an intermediate media communication channel which could distort the message;
- Being a source of information for mass-media, the information listed in the social media pages being taken over by the press trusts and broadcasted at highest rated hours by the main TV channels;
- The social media web pages can be accessed by everybody and address both to the mass-audience and to the soldiers, their families, and to the reserve or retired soldiers.

This year, the IPRD project was evaluated as a “successful one” and generated a series of events through which the MoND social media communication specialists brought their contribution to the training of the personnel working in the Romanian public administration structures and in the overall settlement of this communication field.

<https://www.facebook.com/mapn.ro>
<https://twitter.com/mapnromania>
<http://www.youtube.com/mapnromania>

in important activities and real-time transfer of photographies, videos and text information.

The Advantages of the Communication Through the Social Media Platforms

- Accomplishing the specific public information objectives of the PR structures and communicating through social media networks as a component of the MoND Communication Strategy represent complementary guidelines which support the timely communication of the events and with the community;
- Promoting a realistic image of the Romanian Armed Force in the mass-media by eliminating suspicions related to the existence of certain false accounts/pages/ fields within the on-line social



ARMATA ROMÂNIEI

Oriunde și oricând la datorie

Events, movies and photos featuring the Romanian soldiers deployed in missions worldwide, on Facebook official page of the MoND



Like



www.mapn.ro