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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Special points of interests:

- The Inauguration Ceremony of the Minister of National Defence
- The Mountain Troops, leaving again for Afghanistan
- The ISAF commander visited the Romanian soldiers



The Inauguration Ceremony as the Minister of National Defense for Mr. Gabriel Oprea took place on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, at the Ministry of National Defense Headquarters.

President Traian Basescu participated in ceremony along with former National Defense Minister, Mihai Stanisoara, Chief of General Staff, Admiral Gheorghe Marin, the two secretaries of state, generals, officers, NCOs and civilian personnel of the ministry.





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THE MOUNTAIN TROOPS, LEAVING AGAIN FOR AFGHANISTAN



The leaving in mission military ceremony for the soldiers from the 33rd Mountain Troops Battalion "Posada" took place on Tuesday, January 5, in Curtea de Arges . The Minister of National Defense, Gabriel Oprea, the Chief of the General Staff, Admiral Gheorghe Marin, the US Defense Attaché in Bucharest, Colonel Bruce West, representatives of the local administration and the war veterans have participated together with troops' relatives in the military ceremony.

"For me, as the Minister of National Defense, you the soldiers from the theaters of operations do represent a priority. I am especially concerned, even in a low-resourced years, to meet all the demands that are necessary to rise the level of

security and protection during your missions, to ensure all the rights for you and your relatives and the last but not the least to endow you with the most reliable equipment we have in order to fulfill the missions together with our allies and partners" stated the Minister of National Defense.

The Minister asked the soldiers to seriously and professionally approach every mission, to act according to their mandate and to prove the maximum discipline and correctness in their relations of cooperation and coordination with their partners and allies. Mister Gabriel Oprea appreciated the courage and the devotion the Battalion proved in the theaters of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and in missions home and abroad as a real example of determination in fulfilling the international commitments Romanian assumed in the fight against terrorism.

The Minister of National Defense spoke to the present audience about the wounded or killed in action soldiers from the Battalion: "We can not forget to remember today when you are leaving for a new mission about the extraordinary example of abnegation and sacrifice of the Battalion's hero, Second Lieutenant post mortem Aurel Marcu, killed in action on September 6, 2007 in Afghanistan and the heroism of his wounded brothers in arms Lieutenant Grigore Nicolae, NCOs Octavian Zafiu, Marius Enescu and Mircea Solomon".

Admiral Gheorghe Marin expressed his belief in the fulfillment of the missions trusted for the soldiers from Arges."I am sure you are going to fulfill the missions consigned in good conditions. And, when I say that I have in mind the expertise you gained in the two international missions in Iraq (you provided the security for the UN personnel) and in Afghanistan within the ISAF III. I also have in view your level of training you have obtained along the years and you have accelerated in the last training months".

"I know you have been trained in our training fields and a part of you had a special training program in Hohenfels, Germany, at the US Joint Multinational Readiness Center" stated the chief of the General Staff who recently visited this Center.

The troops from Curtea de Arges, in their second mission in this theater of operations, will act for a six month period in Zabul province, receiving the missions from their brothers in arms, the soldiers from the 280th Infantry Battalion from Focsani.

Among other mission, the Mountain Troops Battalion from Arges will have to ensure the security of their area of responsibility; to perform the military operations together with the Afghani forces, the humanitarian assistance actions and the patrol and escort of convoys missions .





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THE ISAF COMMANDER VISITED THE ROMANIAN SOLDIERS

The US General Stanley McChrystal, the ISAF commander, paid a visit last week to Sagay Ghar Romanian base, Zabul province.

Lieutenant Colonel Iuri Tanase, the Battalion commander and Captain Catalin Cojocaru, the Company commander deployed in place delivered a presentation on the state of security in their area of responsibility and their missions. During his visit the COMISAF had talks with the soldiers from Sagay Ghar Romanian base, listened to carols and tasted the Romanian traditional food.

"Thank the Romanian soldiers for their exemplary way to perform the missions, for sympathizing the Afghan population and for their support to the ISAF forces. Now during the winter Holidays I wish you health, a Happy New Year with achievements for you and your relatives. Merry Christmas!" stated General McChrystal during the meeting with the Romanian soldiers.