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3-5 Izvor St., Bucharest, Romania

tel/fax +4021-3195698

e-mail: drp@mapn.ro

www.mapn.gov.ro

ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

INFORMAL MEETING OF NATO DEFENCE MINISTERS

Special points of interests:

**•Informal meeting of
NATO Defence Min-
isters**

**•OMLT Detachment
returned from Af-
ghanistan**

•Clarification



An MoND delegation headed by the State Secretary of Defence Policy and Planning participated on February 4th and 5th, in Istanbul, in the Informal Reunion of the NATO Defence Ministers.

Aliance's transformation, the development of the operation in Afghanistan and NATO's commitment in Kosovo were among the main topics on the reunion's agenda. As for the Aliance's transformation, there was an assessment of the main multinational initiatives in progress, with a stressing on the medical treatment facilities for the deployable forces, neutralizing the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's), helicopters' deployment in TOs and the NRF (NATO Response Forces). The talks about NRF aimed at stimulating the political engagements for making forces available to it by requesting the statements on national volunteer objectives.

The North Atlantic Council approached the NATO commitment in Kosovo (KFOR), evaluating the perspectives for moving to the next stage of the "discouragement presence" phase.

Operation in Afghanistan was the second major subject of the reunion and was approached during the meetings of the defence ministers from ISAF contributing nations. The debates had as starting point the conclusions drawn after the International Conference held in London, on January 28th, and stressed on the necessity of accomplishing the tasks related to training and counsel the Afghani national security forces. In this regard, the debates were also attended by EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, and the UN Special Representative, Kai Eide.

Romania participated in a meeting of the defence ministers from Regional Command South - ISAF contributing nations and had also a bilateral meeting with the American representatives regarding the commitments accomplished in this operational area.



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OMLT DETACHMENT RETURNED FROM AFGHANISTAN

The ceremony of the OMLT Detachment's arriving from the theater of operations in Afghanistan took place Tuesday, February 9, at the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade "Vasile Lupu" in Bucharest.

Major General Dan Ghica Radu, chief of the Land Forces Staff attended the ceremony and thanked to the soldiers for their courage and professionalism shown in missions of training of the soldiers from the Afghan National Armed Forces. "The exam



of the theater of operations is the most important test for the Romanian soldier. I am glad you all returned home and I express our best thoughts and congratulate you for everything you've done in Afghanistan".

Speaking about the challenges they confronted with in the six month mission, the Detachment commander, LTC Dorin Toma stated: "For each of us this new experience is a real test of our capacity to act in a hostile environment. Our capacity to act and interact with the soldiers from the Afghan National Armed Forces, the Romanian and the US soldiers from the Multinational Force was the key of success in accomplishing the missions".

The representatives of the Joint Operational Command, the 1st Infantry Division "Dacica" and the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade "Vasile Lupu" attended the ceremony, too.

CLARIFICATION

With regard to the "news" concerning the troops the Romanian Ministry of National Defence allegedly sent in a relief mission in Haiti that was published on a Romanian website then taken over as news by several publications, the Press Office of the Ministry of National Defence offers the following clarifications:

The information is false and was published on a website with satirical contents. Readers were misled into thinking the information was true. This was unethical journalistic attitude that could prove highly prejudicial to the image of individuals or institutions the material referred to.

The position of the Ministry of National Defence in the matter is that using such dramatic situations, as that of the Haitian people in the aftermath of the tragic earthquakes, for commercial use is both inappropriate and regrettable and it strongly rejects any possible involvement of the institution name and image in such actions.

Public communication of the Ministry of National Defence would be disseminated exclusively through official channels. We wish to use this opportunity to appreciate the professionalism of those journalists who always verify information generated by such pseudo-sources before releasing them.