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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Meeting of Mircea Duşa, Romanian Minister of National Defence, with
Martin Harris, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to Romania**

Special points of interests:

- Meeting of Mircea Duşa, Romanian Minister of National Defence, with Martin Harris, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Romania
- Mircea Duşa: „We stay strongly committed politically and operationally to our allies to meet NATO's security and defence goals”
- Annual Report of the Romanian Armed Forces
- Wounded Soldiers Visited by State Secretary at the Military Hospital



Official talks

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Romania, Martin Harris at the defence ministry, on Monday, 18 February.

The two officials discussed bilateral military relations and the best ways in which Great Britain could assist and advise Romania in matters concerning projection and consultancy in the process of reviewing the military.

„The main goal of the Ministry of National Defence is to increase the military capability. For the first time, we have a bigger defence budget and there is the promise of an annual increase until we reach the 2 percent of GDP, in agreement with NATO standard”, Minister Duşa added.

In turn, Ambassador Harris emphasized the importance of Romania in its relation with Great Britain adding that our country is one of the few that has armed forces that are both capable and willing to fight. Ambassador Martin Harris continued saying that we can rely on British support in the modernization process as Great Britain wishes to cooperate as closely with Romania as possible, because it proved to be a viable partner.

The agenda of the talks also included the NATO transformation process and the participation in international missions.

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Mircea Duşa: „We stay strongly committed politically and operationally to our allies to meet NATO’s security and defence goals”

Present at Defence Ministerial during 21-22 February 2013, Minister Mircea Duşa conveyed to allies and the other members of the ISAF coalition the message that Romanian authorities continue to be committed to NATO’s involvement in stabilizing Afghanistan post-2014 and consider it Romania’s main operational engagement abroad.

On Thursday, February 21, the defence ministers discussed the stage of implementing the decisions agreed at last year’s Chicago Summit regarding defence, cyber attacks, missile defence, the implementation of allied reforms and reviewing common financing of NATO.

As for the negative impact of the continuous cuts of defence resources in NATO member countries, Minister Duşa briefed the allies on the last decision of the Supreme Council of National Defence to annually increase the defence budget with 0.3 percent of the GDP. The increase will allow meeting NATO requirement to ensure a defence budget of 2 percent of the GDP by 2016.

The working session in ISAF format was dedicated to recent developments and perspectives of the operation and transition process that will come at a crossroads in the spring of this year, when the last provinces and districts will be transferred to Afghan authorities. The defence ministers also discussed relocating ISAF troops and equipment from the Afghan theater of operations and the planning process for the post-2014 training and assistance mission (Resolute Support).

Another topic on the Defence Ministers’s agenda was NATO-Ukraine defence cooperation. In the NATO-Ukraine Commission, the Romanian official delegation expressed Romania’s support for Ukraine in its defence-related reforms.

Annual Report of the Romanian Armed Forces



The national anthem of Romania is played

The 2012 Annual Report of the Romanian Armed Forces took place on Monday, 25 February at the defence ministry location, in the presence of President Traian Băsescu, Prime Minister Victor Ponta and other representatives of the Romanian Government and Parliament.

Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă made a detailed presentation of the state of the military, with emphasis on the priorities of the General Staff, the participation in the projects of the Alliance to develop common capabilities, multinational capabilities of the Smart Defence type and the new Connected Forces Initiative, combat service and participation in operations outside the national territory.

Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă briefed the participants on the main goals of the Romanian Armed Forces in 2013 and on medium and long term.

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, appreciated that Romania met its military commitments to international bodies and thanked the troops who participated in missions abroad last year.

Mircea Duşa emphasized the good training of the military personnel and highlighted the need to improve the military legislation related to the military career.

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Wounded Soldiers Visited by State Secretary at the Military Hospital



State Secretary Vasile Costea and Sergeant Major Costel Stanciu,
wounded in Afghanistan, at the end of last year

Vasile Costea, State Secretary for Parliament Liaison, Public Information and Personnel Welfare visited, on Wednesday 27 February, Captain-Commander Ioana Relu, wounded in an aviation accident in the summer of last year and Sergeant Major Costel Stanciu, wounded in Afghanistan at the end of last year, both hospitalized at “Dr. Carol Davila” Military Hospital.

The State Secretary was interested in the health evolution of the wounded soldiers and pointed out that one of the priorities of the mandate of the department leadership is to ensure the best conditions for recovery of the soldiers wounded in theaters of operations or in missions at home. Together with the medical staff they talked of the ways in which hospitalization conditions could be improved.