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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

The Beginning of A New Military Academic Year

Special points of interests:

- The Beginning of A New Military Academic Year
- The signing ceremony of the Mutual Declaration on Romania's integration into NATO and the end of the assistance offered by Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples
- The handing over of the Battle Colors to the Joint Logistic Command



Minister Gabriel Oprea addressing the audience during the ceremony for the opening of the academic year at the National Defence University

The opening ceremony for the academic year took place at *Carol I* National Defense University, Bucharest, on Monday, October 3rd, in the presence of the defense minister, Gabriel Oprea, the state secretary for the liaison with the Parliament, public information and personnel's life quality, Mihail Vasile-Ozunu, and the Chief of General Staff, lieutenant general Stefan Danila.

In his speech, minister Gabriel Oprea spotlighted the goals that must be accomplished in the educational year 2011-2012, through the joint effort of the teaching staff and the students: *We are opening today a new military academic year that will imply a large amount of activities. A year in which both the students and the teaching staff (the teachers and instructors) of the National Defense University and National Defense College are required to demonstrate the proof of their professionalism and efficient education. We are confident that the year will end up with exceptional results, the human resource's (further) development being of utmost importance to our armed force's transformation process.*

When referring to the fundamental transformation aspects that have taken place within the Romanian military higher education system in the 120 years that passed from the graduation of the first staff officers class, minister Oprea emphasized the fact that the success of this transformation was directly conditioned by the teaching staff's professionalism which materialized in the students' educational level and afterwards in the commendable results obtained by the commissioned and non-commissioned

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Minister Gabriel Oprea addressing the audience during the ceremony for the opening of the academic year at the Military Technical Academy

officers within the detachments established in the theaters of operations, NATO and multinational commands, where Carol I National Defense University's graduates honorable represented Romania.

Minister Gabriel Oprea pointed out that our up-to-date achievements must be an catalyst to a more efficient management of the educational quality in the sense of achieving an optimum balance between the training standards, educational curricula, the results acquired and the beneficiaries' expectations by using the educational strategies specific to a society characterized by a thirst for information, rapid changes and challenges.

Minister Gabriel Oprea assured the students that he would always support them in their thorough study efforts and in maintaining the Romanian military educational and research system at the highest standards; he also expressed his conviction that, whenever necessary, the students would have an adequate response to the challenges they will face in the international security environment, as unit and formation commanders: *When you decided to become military, you chose an honorable and motivating career. You started down on a path set aside only for the brave and courageous ones. The student quality acquired following the entrance examination demonstrates that you are responsible people, interested in a*

military career path, people that our country can rely on, whenever necessary.

The satisfactions offered by the military career are directly proportional with your education and training level, involvement, abnegation and the taking over of certain responsibilities that bring about specific losses and sacrifices.

Minister Gabriel Oprea advised the National Defense College students to fully join their brothers in arms in order to reach a multidisciplinary training level and a solid education.

The Commandant of Carol I National Defense University, lieutenant general Teodor Frunzeti, wished the students and teaching staff success in their new academic year by emphasizing the fact *this academic year is patronized by the new educational law, the Higher-education Charter's validation by the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth testifying that our institution firmly applies the respective norm.*

Also, on Monday, defense minister Gabriel Oprea participated in the opening ceremony of the 2011-2012 academic year at the Military Technical Academy. The Chief of General Staff, lieutenant general Stefan Danila, military and civilian representatives of the Ministry of National Defense and of the other institutions schooling their students there have also attended the ceremony (respectively the Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Special Telecommunications Service, The Foreign Affairs Service, the Romanian Intelligence Service, Protection and Guard Service and the National Administration of Penitentiaries.)

In the speech made in front of the future military and civilian engineers, minister Gabriel Oprea called the Military Technical Academy *a citadel of the Romanian higher-educational technical system* and expressed his confidence in the students and teachers' ability of successfully facing all challenges, whether military or educational. *You are all ahead of an academic year throughout you will have to prove that you have accumulated knowledge and can adapt your personal qualities to your plans. You will have to attend classes and practical courses, participate in exam sessions and projects that will require all your attention. I am confident that you will face all these ordeals because you take profit from your youth, enthusiasm and energy but also from the experience and determination of the teaching staff's who start over their noble mission of guiding your steps every year,* minister Gabriel Oprea pointed out.

Military ceremonies dedicated to mark the beginning of the new academic year took place also on Monday at the Services' academies ("Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Force Academy from Sibiu, "Henri Coanda" Air Force Academy from Braşov and "Mircea cel Bătrân" Naval Academy from Constanta), and at the Medical-Military Institute from Bucharest.

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The signing ceremony of the Declaration on Romania's integration into NATO and the end of the assistance offered by Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples



Lieutenant general Stefan Danila and admiral Samuel J. Locklear

The signing ceremony of the Declaration on Romania's integration into NATO and the end of the assistance offered by Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples took place on Wednesday, September 28, at the Ministry of National Defense location.

The mutual declaration was signed by lieutenant general Stefan Danila, the Chief of General Staff, and admiral Samuel J. Locklear, Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

Admiral Locklear emphasized the fact that the Romanian Armed Force's achievements as part of the NATO accession and integration program were fully recognized and valued by the North-Atlantic community.

"You have demonstrated the requisite operational capabilities necessary for inclusion in the NATO Force Structure and Integrated Air Defense System. Throughout the accession process, Romania has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the future of the Alliance. Romanian soldiers serve with distinction in KFOR. Your deployed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq have proven themselves repeatedly in combat and harsh conditions", the commander of JFC Naples said.

"Your forces are well-trained, well-led, and highly capable. NATO is very pleased with the progress they have made in the integration process. Their ability to operate in the modern security environment is an impressive achievement", admiral Samuel J. Locklear pointed out.

Lieutenant general Stefan Danila has thanked the NATO official for the support given to the Romanian Armed Force in facilitating the meeting of the necessary criteria in view of a proper qualification and has made a retrospective of the Romanian military process for its accession and integration into NATO. "We had to train new generations of military leaders, to restructure the military education system as well as the unit training programs in order to generate military personnel adequately qualified to achieve our goal in creating modern armed forces that are well trained, well endowed and capable of facing the various challenges within the modern combat environment", the Chief of General Staff explained.

"The human resources training was concurrent with a reform at all the structural levels of the Romanian Armed Forces that aimed at establishing strong flexible structures that meet all the requirements of the modern combat environment and are capable of accomplishing their missions in accordance with NATO standards. The value of our efforts in meeting our assumed goals during this complex reform process – well appreciated by our NATO partners – is reflected in the excellent results that our military obtained while deployed in various theatres of operations, where Romania was actively involved", lieutenant general Stefan Danila emphasized.

The Romanian Armed Force's long-term transformation process started in 1994, when Romania joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Program. In 2004, concurrently with Romania's accession to NATO and initiation of our armed force's official integration process, the Romanian military reform process entered a new stage by benefiting from the direct assistance offered by JFC Naples, the NATO designated structure for integration.

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The handing over of the Battle Colors to the Joint Logistic Command



Minister Gabriel Oprea handing the Battle Colors to the
commander of the Joint Logistic Command

On Thursday, September 15th, the minister of national defense, Gabriel Oprea, participated in the military ceremony occasioned by the handing over of the Battle Colors to the Joint Logistic Command. The ceremony started with the consecration of the Battle Colors by a group of military priests and their handing over to major general Cătălin Zisu by minister Gabriel Oprea. In his speech, the minister of defense expressed his conviction that the Joint Logistic Command would assert itself as one of the picks of the Romanian army and would act (in all circumstances) as a modern, credible, well-trained and prepared force. “The professionals manning this command have always fulfilled their assigned missions at high standards by providing all necessary supplies to the colleagues operating at local level as well as in the theaters of operations. We all know that the command and control act at the strategic, operative and tactical levels, as well as the daily accomplishment of the Romanian Armed Force’s missions could not be possible without an adequate logistic support”, said minister Gabriel Oprea. The minister of national defense emphasized the fact that “making operational the national command and the two support elements that operate in Afghanistan in the benefit of all Romanian militaries deployed in a complex theater of operations confirmed our meeting of the Alliance logistic support implemented standards. The specialists of the 93 units subordinated to the Joint Logistic Command have succeeded in promptly providing the necessary resources to the combat units’ command“. Minister Oprea stated the important role hold by the Joint Logistic Command’s specialists in the accomplishment of the goals the ministry of national defense took responsibility for, even though the world crisis left its mark on the NATO state members’ defense budgets,

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Minister Gabriel Oprea addressing the people
attending the ceremony

implicitly on the one allocated to the Romanian Armed Force: “We have a NATO-level trained armed force which, in spite of its budgetary shortfalls generated by the economic crisis, efficiently deployed its troops at long distance from its borders, in the war against terrorism. We have the ability and determination to fully accomplish our missions. The efforts to increase the Romanian militaries’ security and provide optimum life conditions in order to conduct our missions for the militaries that act in the country as well as in the theaters of operations have been and will continue to be one of my priority guidelines. The role of the Joint Logistic Command’s specialists is very important for the accomplishment of this desiderate”. When referring to the missions accomplished on our territory, minister Gabriel Oprea has indicated that, by their courageous, helping and rescue operations in support of the population affected by last year’s floods, the teams provided by the Joint Logistic Command have confirmed the Romanians that the army is always close to the people in suffering, by putting its shoulder to the wheel in order to leave behind and solve all difficult emerging situations.

Gabriel Oprea advised all Joint Logistic Command’s personnel to see him as a colleague, a partner that supports them in the accomplishment of their missions and was confident that its entire personnel would always be at their best and serve their country by putting together their soul dedication and courage inherited from their forerunners. “You must be proud that you are part of the Joint Logistic Command and prove professional in all activities you conduct under the motto HONOR AND COUNTRY written down on the Battle Colors”, said minister Oprea by concluding his speech. The Joint Logistic Command’ Battle Colors were granted by the Romanian president in Decree no. 650 of July 20, 2011 following the defense minister’s proposal. The state secretaries of the ministry of national defense, Viorel Oancea and Mihail Vasile-Ozunu, the Chief of General Staff, lieutenant general Stefan Danila, other general officers and commissioned officers of the central structures and the three Services, active-duty and reserve militaries as well as war veterans have also taken part in the activity organized at the headquarters of “Mihai Viteazul” 30 Guard Regiment.