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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Meeting between the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea,  
and NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen**

## Special points of interests:

- Meeting between Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, and NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen
- Military ceremony to mark KAIA detachment's arrival from Afghanistan



The Romanian Defence Minister, Gabriel Oprea,  
and NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen

The Minister of National Defence, Mr. Gabriel Oprea, had a meeting with NATO Secretary General, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, at the defence ministry on Monday, October 10.

The officials discussed NATO ongoing operations, Romanian participation in such operations and the solid contribution our country has in the allied decision making process, operations and initiatives.

Minister Gabriel Oprea emphasized once more that Romania is going to give special attention to participating in the allied joint defence, to contributing with forces and capabilities in NATO missions despite the financial constraints caused by the global economic crisis. "By having accessed the most powerful political and military alliance, Romania pledged itself to honor the important responsibilities deriving from its status. I assure you, we are seriously engaged in seeing that Romania meets its commitments to NATO", the defence minister said.

"We will continue to participate in NATO-led operations and missions, to be active in the concept development of NATO transformation process and, at the same time, to contribute to the allied initiatives to develop defence capabilities", minister Oprea highlighted.

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The Minister Of Defence confers the Emblem "The Honor of the Romanian Armed Force to NATO Secretary General"

NATO Secretary General thanked the Romanian soldiers' for their efforts in the theaters of operations and conveyed the appreciation of the Alliance for the troops' actions in ensuring security and stability in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Libya as well as their contributions to NATO Operation "Unified Protector".

"Your country has a proud military tradition and the Romanian Armed Forces have played a major role in several of NATO's most challenging operations including Afghanistan, Kosovo and Libya. In each of those operations they have displayed the highest standards of military excellence. The Alliance owes a deep gratitude to the Romanian Armed Forces. We can be proud of what we have achieved together for our shared security", Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

During a military ceremony, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Gabriel Oprea, conferred the Emblem "The Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces" to NATO Secretary General, as a token of appreciation for an

outstanding activity in service of international security and for the constant support of the Romanian Armed Forces.

"It is a great honor for us to confer the Secretary General of NATO the highest distinction of the Romanian Armed Forces. This is a token of appreciation for your activity as NATO Secretary General but also for the constant support that you have provided for the Ministry of National Defence of Romania. As we have already said, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to continue our efforts by participating in NATO-led operations", minister Gabriel Oprea declared.



Aspect during the official calls

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## Military ceremony to mark KAIA detachment's arrival from Afghanistan



Minister Gabriel Oprea congratulates the militaries of the detachment

Defence minister, Gabriel Oprea, participated on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, in the ceremony that marked the arrival of KAIA Lead Nation Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> rotation, at 90<sup>th</sup> Airlift Flotilla, in Bucharest.

Minister Oprea welcomed the 74 militaries of the Romanian Air Force and congratulated them on the exceptional manner they accomplished the assigned mission in the Afghan theater of operations.

“Your commendable behavior and outstanding results of your missions proved once again that you are part of the Romanian armed force elite. You have assured the command of Kabul International Airport - a vital transit point for the ISAF mission - for six months and

have successfully accomplished your mandate. Throughout this period, you have executed complex missions together with the International Security Assistance Force participants, beginning with ensuring the air operation command and support up to providing protection to the forces that transit the most important airport from Afghanistan”, said the Romanian defence minister, by adding that the airport was transited by more than 147,600 people and over 17,000 tones of materiel, all through the six months of mission.

The defence minister stated that ensuring the air traffic control, air operations command, flight safety, logistic support or the airport communications in an airport such as Kabul one (transited by 500 military and civilian aircrafts on a daily basis) are not easily-to-accomplish missions and that the Romanian militaries' success is based on solid professional skills, an extraordinary organization and a strong team spirit. “It is for the second time when Romania has assumed the command of this airport. I am aware that the success of this mission was due to our exceptional individual skills. (...). Dear comrades, you have proved that Romania has the ability of accomplishing all its commitments by significantly contributing - together with the other nations - to the international stability and reconstruction effort of a country (i.e. Afghanistan) that has gone through a lot of afflictions, minister Oprea emphasized.

He restated that fact that the militaries that serve the country in the theaters of operations are the best ambassadors of the Romanian image worldwide: “You have spoken to the entire world about the professionalism, honor and courage of the Romanian armed force”.

The chief of General Staff, lieutenant general Stefan Danila, representatives of the ministry's central structures of the Air Force Staff and the families of the militaries that returned from mission also participated in the arrival ceremony organized at 90<sup>th</sup> Air Flotilla.

KAIA Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> rotation, ensured the command of Kabul International Airport throughout April 1<sup>st</sup> - September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

The Romanian Air Force has assumed the command of the activities to be conducted on Kabul International Airport during April 2011 - April 2012, as part of NATO stability effort in Afghanistan.