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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Chief of General Staff participation in the
military ceremony occasioned by the 812th Infantry Battalion's
mission accomplished in Afghanistan**

Special points of interests:

- Chief of General Staff participation in the military ceremony occasioned by the 812th Infantry Battalion's mission accomplished in Afghanistan
- Chief of General Staff Visits the Romanian Troops in Kosovo at the end of the ROFND mission



Major General Stefan Danila
awards a medal to the Colors of the 812th
Infantry Battalion (foto V. Ciobirca)

A military ceremony took place in Bistrita on Tuesday 22th, in the presence of the Romanian Chief of General Staff, Major General Stefan Danila, to mark the end of mission and return home of the 812th „Carpathians' hawks“ Infantry Battalion from Afghanistan. During the event the Colors of the 811th „Transylvanian Dragons“ Battalion and the 812th „Carpathians' hawks“ Battalion were awarded the National Order „For Merits“, officer's rank, with war insignia.

The Minister of National Defence Gabriel Oprea sent his congratulations to the troops of the 81st Infantry Brigade, the higher echelon of the two battalions, for the way they accomplished their mission in Afghanistan: „It is for the first time since WW2 that a large Romanian military unit deployed two battalions simultaneously to a theater of operations. I congratulate you on the exemplary manner in which you did your duty and I wish to thank you for this, in my own name and on behalf of the Romanian Armed Forces“.

The minister emphasized that the important decorations that were awarded are a confirmation of the exceptional results the two battalions had in their missions both at home and in theaters of operations abroad.

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The minister's message continued: „We wish that today's Solemn Call were attended by all those who were leaving behind their loved ones to go fight terror six months ago. Unfortunately, 1st Lieutenants (posthumous) Marius Florin Sfeches and Cristian-Petru Filip were killed on duty. The loss of Marius and Cristian was a tragedy but also a proof that military men can only be brave, dignified and patriots“.

In his message, minister Oprea thanked sergeant 1st class Vasile Zbanca and Corporal Paul Ilovan, both wounded in Afghanistan, for their courage and professionalism, reassuring them they would get all the assistance needed to get over the present difficulties and during their future recovery.

The minister thanked the families, relatives and all those who were the moral support from home of the deployed troops, who took over all responsibilities during these hard times.

„The experience you gained in different missions, the professionalism, the human relationships established on site take further Romanian military traditions and values. You are the elite of the Romanian Armed Forces and I congratulate you for what you do for your Country“, was the conclusion of Gabriel Oprea's message.

During their six-month mission in Afghanistan, the troops of „Carpathians' hawks“ conducted about 3000 missions that covered a wide range of operations, from counter-insurgency to escort and reconnaissance.

Along US Provincial Reconstruction troops and experts in agriculture, the Romanian troops participated in project development, school building, organizing and securing the building of local farms.



The military parade of the 812th
"Carpathians' hawks"
Infantry Battalion (foto V. Ciobirca)



Snipe-shot from the
military ceremony
(foto V. Ciobirca)

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Chief of General Staff Visits the Romanian Troops in Kosovo at the end of the ROFND mission

Major General Ștefan Dănilă, chief of the General Staff, made a visit in the theater of operation in Kosovo, on Monday February 14th, as ROFND concluded its mission there.

The Chief of General Staff and Major General Erhard Bühler, KFOR commander, met and discussed security issues of the KFOR area of operations.

Major General Bühler highlighted the professionalism and determination of the Romanian troops in accomplishing their missions and thanked our country for the entire activity of the ROFND Detachment that completed 21 consecutive rotations in this theater of operations.

Colonel Carlo Emiliani, commander MNBG-West (Multinational Battle Group-West), under whose command ROFND Detachment operated, was awarded the Crest of Honor of the Romanian General Staff by Major General Stefan Danila.

During the military ceremony organized at Camp Villaggio in Pec, the Romanian Chief of General Staff delivered the message of the Romanian Minister of National Defence Gabriel Oprea: „Along the nine year presence in this theater of operations, the Romanian troops ensured a stable security environment that eased the mission of local and central authorities and international organizations. The Romanian troops in the theaters of operations played an essential role in the prestige of our country. In accomplishing their missions at the highest standards, Romanian Armed Forces proved once more that our country is a serious and reliable partner of the international community.



Troops of the RO FND XXI Detachment
saluting the Romanian Chief of General Staff
(foto V. Ciobirca)

Romania's commitments in these regions, so important for international security, confirmed once more our country's capability as a security provider. This should be a warrant for the standards of Romania's future performance in the international structures and organizations, an enhancer of military cooperation with NATO and EU member states and interoperability with allied units“, the defence minister's message said.

In his message, the minister reassured the troops that he took great pride in the Romanian Armed Forces' participation in the theaters of operations that showed the standards of their training, as in the case of the ROFND Detachment that was able to report „Kosovo, mission accomplished!“

The message addressed to the troops of the ROFND Detachment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Liviu Stoica continued: „I know that missions such as guard, security and community watch, patrol on foot or onboard different vehicles, night and day surveillance from fixed or temporary posts, escorting different types of convoys, recce for own troops or mixed troops, acting as a rapid reaction force were not easy missions which is why I wanted you to know you have my entire gratitude and respect for your professionalism“.

At the end of his message, Defence Minister Gabriel Oprea thanked all the troops of the allied and partner countries that operated in Kosovo, for the way they interacted with the Romanian troops of the ROFND Detachment in accomplishing their missions.