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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Romanian Troops Deployed to Afghanistan Visited  
by Prime Minister Victor Ponta**

## Special points of interests:

- Romanian Troops Deployed to Afghanistan Visited by Prime Minister Victor Ponta
- Military ceremonies in celebration of the Heroes' Day
- Combined Team Zabul and the 1st Maneuver Battalion Deployed to Afghanistan
- Meeting of the State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning with a Delegation from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- The Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Dan Ghica-Radu, paid an official visit to the Republic of Serbia



Meeting with the troops at Forward Operating Base Apache

The Romanian troops deployed to Zabul Province, Afghanistan, received the visit of the delegation headed by Prime Minister Victor Ponta on Tuesday, 22 May.

The chief of the Romanian Government was briefed on the main missions accomplished by the Romanian troops in their area of responsibility in the Southern Afghanistan, the operations conducted in cooperation with the Coalition forces and with the partners in the Afghan Security Forces, as well as on the support and assistance they provide to the local population.

The delegation met with the troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Battalion deployed to the forward base Bullard, whereas the troops of the 1st Maneuver Battalion and Colonel Adrian Tonea, commander of the national contingent deployed to Zabul Province, met with the delegation at the forward base Apache. There, a stand was displayed, exhibiting the equipment used by the Romanian troops in this theater of operations. Later in the day, the delegation members traveled to Kandahar to meet with Major General James Huggins, Commander ISAF Regional South Command. The discussions revolved around the special cooperation the Romanian troops have with the partners within ISAF.

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Prime-Minister Victor Ponta with Romanian troops in Afghanistan

The National Military Representative of Romania to Afghanistan, Colonel Mircea Mândrescu, gave a briefing for the members of the delegation: Prime Minister Victor Ponta, State Secretary Dan Tătaru, Lieutenant General Valeriu Nicuș, deputy Chief of General Staff for Operations and Training and Mr. Mark Henry Gitenstein, the US ambassador to Bucharest, on the activity of the National Support Element, ensuring the operational readiness of the Romanian troops deployed in the theater of operations and the cooperation with similar US structures troops regarding the provision of necessary equipment, as provided by the signed agreements.

The Romanian Military participate with about 1,800 troops in Afghanistan TO, manning maneuvers battalions, liaison and monitor structures, logistic support and staff positions. They are mainly deployed to Zabul Province, but to Kandahar, Bagram and Kabul, as well.

The 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Battalions in Afghanistan consist mainly in troops of the 300<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion of Galați and the 280<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Battalion, Focșani.

## Military ceremonies in celebration of the Heroes' Day



A delegation of the Ministry of National Defence, headed by Minister Corneliu Dobrișiu, laying a wreath at the Unknown Soldier's Grave

The Ministry of National Defence organized, on Thursday, 24 May, military and religious ceremonies in celebration of the Ascension Day and the Heroes' Day, in localities having monuments of the heroes, through the National Office for Heroes Memory, in cooperation with representatives of the local administration.

Wreath-laying ceremonies were organized at heroes' monuments in cities and localities with military units, with the participation of active duty, reserve and retired military personnel, war veterans and representatives of local authorities.

A moment of silence was held in all military units at 12.00, whereas military religious chapels tolled the bells as a tribute to the heroes of the homeland.

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## Combined Team Zabul and the 1<sup>st</sup> Maneuver Battalion Deployed to Afghanistan



Ceremony for the deployment of Combined Team Zabul and the 1<sup>st</sup> Maneuver Battalion Deployed to Afghanistan

Over 650 troops participated in the ceremony organized for the deployment of the Combined Team Zabul and the 1<sup>st</sup> Maneuver Battalion in the theater of operations Afghanistan on Wednesday, 23 May. The ceremony attended by State Secretary Sebastian Huluban and the chief of General Staff, Lieutenant-General Ștefan Dănilă, took place at the 228<sup>th</sup> „Piatra Craiului“ Air-Defence Battalion, Brașov.

State Secretary Sebastian Huluban wished the troops good luck in their missions, on behalf of the Minister of National Defence, Corneliu Dobrițoiu and the military leadership. The state secretary for defence policy and planning, assured the troops from Brașov that the new leadership of the ministry would continue the good ongoing projects related to the measures and protection of troops in theaters of operations and would be responsive to any problems that may occur from now on.

*„The first and foremost continuity element of the defence policy, highlighted by the governing program the new government pledged itself to, aims at the very maintaining of our level of participation in international operations, in compliance with the former agreements. Our interest focuses on the quality aspect of our participation in theaters of operations, on increasing the safety of the deployed troops by making a priority of the defence procurement programs dedicated to personnel protection“*, State Secretary Sebastian Huluban declared.

The two military structures, consisting mainly of troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> „Sarmizegetusa“ Mountain Troops and the 21<sup>st</sup> „General Leonard Mociulschi“ Mountain Troops, will operate in Zabul Region, South Afghanistan, for six months.

The event was attended by troops' families, active duty and reserve military personnel, representatives of the local authorities.

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## Meeting of the State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning with a Delegation from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Photo from the event

The State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, Sebastian Huluban, had a meeting with a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, headed by the Minister of State for Defence Production Sardar Bahadur Ahmed Khan, on Thursday, 17 May.

The discussions approached the subject of the defence cooperation relations between our countries and the possibilities of furthering them.

The visit of the Pakistani delegation took place in the context of the participation in the 4th edition of the international exhibition „Black Sea Defense & Aerospace 2012“ – BSDA 2012.

## Five Romanian officers left for Syria as military observers

Five officers of the Ministry of National Defence left for Syria on Thursday, 17 May, to participate as military observers in the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria – UNSMIS.

The mission was established by United Nations Security Council resolution 2043 of 21 April 2012 to monitor, over a 90-day period, a cessation of armed violence in all its forms by all parties and to monitor and support the full implementation of the Joint Special Envoy's, Kofi Annan, six-point plan to end the conflict in Syria.

In response to the UN request to member states to participate in organizing UNSMIS, the President of Romania approved the participation of the five officers of the Ministry of Defence in the UN Supervision Mission in Syria. Travel, accommodation and the daily allowance-related expenses for the duration of the mission are covered by the UN.

The Romanian military have 35 military observers in missions under UN aegis, conducted in D.R. Congo, Liberia, Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, Southern Sudan and Kosovo.

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## The Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Dan Ghica-Radu, paid an official visit to the Republic of Serbia



Aspect during the official visit

On May 16-17, the Deputy Chief of General Staff, lieutenant general Dan Ghica-Radu, paid an official visit to the Republic of Serbia following the invitation of his Serb counterpart, major general Milan Bjelica.

During the official calls, subjects as bilateral military cooperation, the Romanian Armed Forces' transformation process and the Romanian military participation in the theaters of operations were tackled. Also, the development and the ways of improving the military cooperation in the region with a view to maintaining the security good neighborliness climate were reviewed.

The Romanian Official's agenda also comprised meetings with the State Secretary for Defense Policy, Tanja Miscevic, and the Chief of General Staff of the Serb Armed Force, lieutenant general, Ljubisa Dicovic. Also, the Romanian Deputy Chief of General Staff laid a wreath to the Unknown Hero's Monument from Avala.