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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Minister Duşa Met with a Delegation of the
United States Congress**

Special points of interests:

- Minister Duşa Met with a Delegation of the United States Congress
- Romanian-American Exercise DACIAN THUNDER 2015
- Romanian-Korean Agreement Signed at the Ministry of National Defence
- Romanian-American Exercise in Smârdan Firing Range
- The Romanian Defence Minister met with his British counterpart
- “DACIAN WARHAWK”
- NATO Naval Exercises in the Black Sea



Photo coverage of the meeting

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met on Friday, March 27, with a delegation of the United States Congress headed by Mac Thornberry, chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services.

The topics discussed included the security situation in Ukraine, bilateral cooperation related to the missile defence facility at Deveselu, and Romania's commitment to the theater of operations in Afghanistan.

Minister Mircea Duşa and the US Congressmen discussed the stage of implementing the assurance measures in a bilateral context and NATO, the exercises conducted together within Operation „Atlantic Resolve” and the Action Plan on increasing the Alliance's operational capability.

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Romanian-American Exercise DACIAN THUNDER 2015

The 71st Air Base of Câmpia Turzii hosts the bilateral exercise „DACIAN THUNDER 2015” over March 27 and July 7.

About 300 soldiers, pilots and technical staff of the Romanian Air Force along with four MiG-21 LanceR, six IAR-330 Puma helicopters (SOCAT and MEDEVAC) participate in the exercise. The US Air Force will be involved in the exercise with about 350 soldiers, 11 A-10 aircraft and the necessary operating equipment.

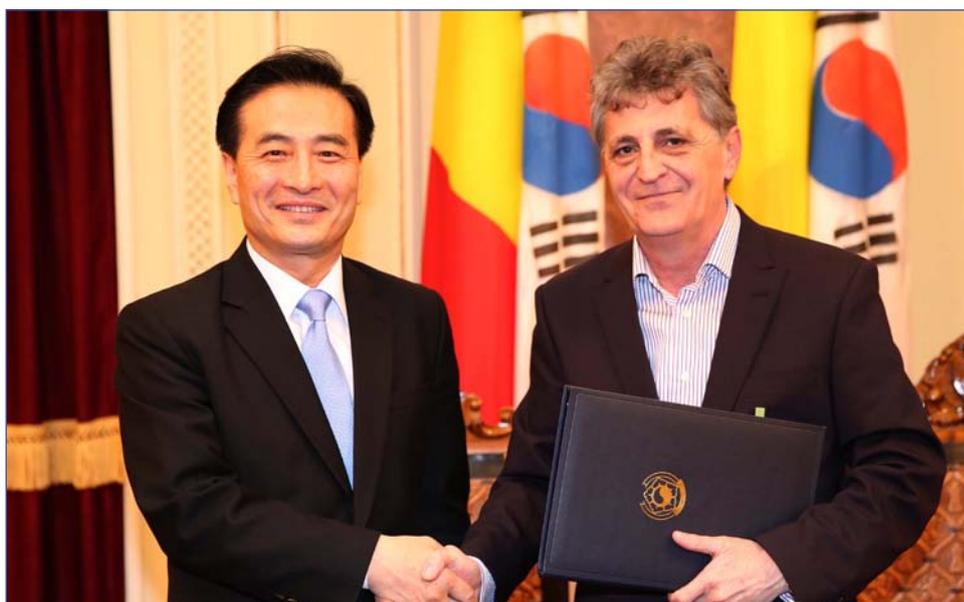
The exercise aims at increasing the Romanian and US personnel interoperability and level of training by conducting joint flights.

Romanian-Korean Agreement Signed at the Ministry of National Defence

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Romania, Mr. Hyo-Sung Park, signed an agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Korea on the protection of classified military information. The event was marked by a ceremony that took place at the defence ministry, on Thursday, March 26.

The agreement is an important element for the development of defence cooperation between the two parties and marks, at the same time, the anniversary of 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two states.

Signing the agreement ensures the conditions to extend the legal frame to strengthen the partnership with the Republic of Korea, by signing, in the near future a bilateral agreement on defence cooperation between the two states.



The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Romania, Mr. Hyo-Sung Park

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Romanian-American Exercise in Smârdan Firing Range

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met on Tuesday, March 24, at 12.30., with the Romanian and American troops participating in the 1st stage of the multinational exercise SABER JUNCTION 15, conducted in Smârdan firing range, Galați County.

The 1st stage of the multinational exercise SABER JUNCTION 15 - Early Entry is an airborne operation involving structures from the US 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 2nd

Cavalry Regiment, together with Romanian forces of the 282nd Mechanized Brigade. SABER JUNCTION 15 will be conducted in Smârdan firing range in April with the participation of over two thousand troops from Great Britain, Republic of Moldova, Romania and the USA.



Unfolding exercise

The Romanian Defence Minister met with his British counterpart

Defence Minister Mircea Duşa met with his British counterpart, Michael Fallon, on Monday, March 23, at the Ministry of National defence headquarters. s-a întâlnit luni, 23 martie, cu omologul său britanic, , la sediul instituției.

Romanian Defence Minister Mircea Dusa and his British counterpart Michael Fallon discussed the joint measures necessary to ensure a permanent presence of NATO capabilities in the Black Sea. The United Kingdom will send one of its newest destroyers to Romania's southeastern port of Constanta in October, announced Michael Fallon, who also said that the UK shares Romania's concern about the security in the Black Sea region and confirmed the presence of British troops in the two NATO command centers to be set up in Romania.

Mircea Dusa declared: 'We have addressed in our talks today several important issues; one of them concerns the security and the political and military situation in our region, resulting from the crisis

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Joint press statement of the two officials

in Ukraine and from the annexation of Crimea by Russia. We have also analysed the status of the cooperation of the two ministries within NATO; we have discussed the way reassurance missions are carried out on the eastern flank of NATO and of the European Union.’

The British minister also hailed Romania’s decision to increase the defence budget by 2 percent

of the GDP over the next years. He insisted that the NATO missile defence system to be deployed in Romania was a defensive one, just as the Alliance’s purpose was defensive. “We have the right to defend ourselves in this states alliance format. Neither the United Kingdom, nor Romania will be intimidated by any threat to the Alliance or to one of its states. We are against any future aggressions”, Fallon added.

“DACIAN WARHAWK”

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, and the chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Nicolae Ciucă, attended the Romanian-American exercise ”DACIAN WARHAWK” conducted at the 71st Air Base of Câmpia Turzii, at 11.00hrs., on Sunday, March 22.

Exercise „DACIAN WARHAWK” involved about 500 Romanian and American forces, pilots and technical staff, MiG-21 LanceR aircraft, IAR-330 (SOCAT and MEDEVAC) helicopters and F-16 aircraft.



Static exhibition

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NATO Naval Exercises in the Black Sea

The ships of NATO's Standing Maritime Group-2 (SNMG-2) left the Black Sea Port of Constanța on Monday, March 16, resuming their actions at sea.

They were joined by two corvettes, two missile carrier ships, Mărășești frigate and three aircraft of the Romanian Air Force to carry out submarine and air defence exercises as well as to push back the attack of enemy ships and fast boats.

The Standing NATO Maritime Group-2 (SNMG-2),

made a stop in Constanța Port, from 13 to 15 March. On Friday 13, at 14.00 hrs., the SNMG-2 Commander, the Rear Admiral Brad Williamson, held a press conference; at the end of the conference the journalists were offered the opportunity to visit the American ship.

During its stop in Romania, the foreign military officials visited the Fleet Command; the sports contests were organized between the Romanian and foreign military seamen at „Mircea cel Bătrân” Navy Academy and visits of the crew members at the Museum of the Romanian Navy.

On Saturday, March 14, the US, Canadian, German, Italian, Turkish and Romanian soldiers together with volunteers of the National Environment Guard planted 1.000 trees in the area of Saint Elena from the Seaside Monastery (in Costinești).

SNMG-2 resumed its activities at sea on Monday, March 16, when other exercises were planned with the participation of other Romanian aircraft and ships (Mărășești frigate, two corvettes, two missile carrier ships).

The Romanian Navy Forces participated with Frigate Regina Maria having a Puma helicopter on board in Navy exercises conducted in the Black Sea together with Standing NATO Maritime Group-2 (SNMG-2).

The participation of Frigate Regina Maria in operations of SNMG-2 in the Black Sea represents Romania's contribution to NATO package of immediate reaction forces and aims at building trust and increasing interoperability among allies.



The minister of national defence watched the exercises at sea conducted by Standing NATO Maritime Group 2

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Standing NATO Maritime Group-2 (SNMG-2) -under the command of Rear Admiral Brad Williamson (United States Navy)-is one of the four multinational naval groups of the Alliance, consisting of four frigates (HMCS Fredericton, Canada, TCG Turgutreis, Turkey, Italian frigate ITS Aliseo, and Regina Maria, Romania, that will have an helicopter on board) with cruiser USS Vicksburg as flagship and German tanker FGS Spessart.

Mission SNMG-2 in the Black Sea was planned in 2014 as part of the Plan with the main activities of the Romanian Navy, aiming at increasing interoperability of Romanian military seamen with troops of the alliance. The missions carried out by the Romanian Navy contribute actively to implementing Romania's security policy.