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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**The Meeting of the Defence Minister, Gabriel Leș, with the  
Defence Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia**

## Special points of interests:

- The Meeting of the Defence Minister, Gabriel Leș, with the Defence Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia
- Exercise NEPTUNE STRIKE 19
- Balkan Countries CHOD's Forum



Defence Ministers Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska and Gabriel Leș, reviewing the Guard of Honor - photo by the MOD of North Macedonia

On September 11, defence minister Gabriel Leș had a bilateral meeting with his Macedonian counterpart, Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska, at Skopje.

The Romanian official's visit in the Republic of North Macedonia took place at 3 days after the 28th anniversary since the proclamation of the country's independence.

One of the topics listed on the meeting agenda was the perspectives of the development of the bilateral cooperation relations in the defence field between the two states, taking into account the fact that the Republic of North Macedonia's accession process to NATO initiated in 2008 at the Bucharest Summit, reaches its end state, since this country is to be the 30th Allied state. Also, the two ministers reviewed a series of aspects regarding international security the measures taken to counter terrorism as well as the commitments of the two states with regard to regional stability and security, respectively the cooperation within regional initiatives.

## Exercise NEPTUNE STRIKE 19

The Special Operations Forces Exercise NEPTUNE STRIKE 19 (NEST 19) took place through 16-26 September, in the Romanian Armed Forces' training facilities and on Tuzla airfield.

Over 100 servicemen with almost 20 pieces of equipment from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Serbia participated in this exercise. The Romanian soldiers are part of the Navy's Special Operations Forces. The Distinguished Visitors' Day of NEST 19 was organized on Wednesday, 25 September, starting 10.00.

NEST 19 was conducted according to a fictitious scenario associated to the hybrid war, which enabled the testing of the training level of the SOF personnel subordinated to the Special Operations Forces Command.

The goal of the exercise was to increase interoperability among the participating structures – by means of planning and conducting specific navy SOF joint missions and to harmonize the working procedures in multinational environment – in order to ensure regional security.

## Balkan Countries CHOD's Forum

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Balkan Countries CHOD's Forum took place on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, in Bucharest, at Marriott Hotel.

The activity consisted in the participation of the nine member delegations of the initiative - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey and the Croat and Slovenian delegations, as observers.



Balkan Countries CHODs Forum

The special invitees of the event were Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Lieutenant General Omer Lavoie, Deputy Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Lieutenant General Carlos Humberto Loitey, the United Nations Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as Brigadier General Fernando Paglialunga, the EU representative.



At the end of the working sessions, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, and the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach, made press statements.

The mass-media representatives were asked to take part in the introductory session and at the presentation of the Activity report on joint cooperation.

The objectives of the conference were: development of regional military cooperation, increase of security and ensuring a stability climate in the Balkans area, identification and development of a regional crises management mechanism as well as increase of interoperability among the armed forces in the region with a view of jointly participating in various exercises and missions.

The annual reunion of the Balkan countries CHODs is a regional initiative which was established in 2007. The main goal of this forum is to increase military cooperation at all levels and improve relevant capabilities of the states in the region so that these can adequately respond to the potential asymmetric threats and non-military crises.