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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Graduation Ceremony at the
"Carol I" National Defence University**

Special points of interests:

- Graduation Ceremony at the "Carol I" National Defence University
- Frigate "Regele Ferdinand" Ends Mission in the Mediterranean within "Unified Protector"
- The Day of the Romanian Aviation and Air Force



The minister of national defence addressing the audience

The minister of national defence, Gabriel Oprea, participated on Friday, July 22, in the ceremony organized for the graduation of the 114th "DIMITRIE CANTEMIR" series of the "Carol I" National Defence University as well as of the 22nd series from the National Defence College.

"You have to realize that, from now on, you represent one of the main institutions of this country. In times of crisis, the Romanian people have always relied on the Church and the Army, for guidance and support. Military forces have always signified confidence and courage and their main mission, to defend the nation, was fulfilled throughout history and is written in the Constitution", the defence minister Gabriel Oprea conveyed to the graduates.

He continued saying that it is their mission to take further the tradition of the Romanian military school: "This heritage is not an

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easy one to carry! You will have to confirm and, why not, go beyond quite high standards. This is where elites were formed and ideas were born and it is also here that great personalities of modern Romania started their careers".

Mr. Oprea emphasized that the officers who had improved and furthered their education in "Carol I" National Defence University are now part of the military leadership. "After graduating from a school for the political and military elites, which the

National Defence College is, the former students have been assigned responsibilities in state institutions in the field of, or related to national security. This is going to be your path as well. Do not hesitate to take it", Mr. Oprea said in his message to the graduates of the National Defence College.

The ceremony took place on the plateau in front of the Monument of Homeland Heroes. Beside graduates' families and personnel of the two institutions, invited to take part in the event were representatives of the Ministry of National Defence, of the local public authorities, retired and reserve military personnel and war veterans.



The minister of national defence offering a medal

The 114th "Dimitrie Cantemir" series of graduates

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Frigate "Regele Ferdinand" Ends Mission in the Mediterranean within "Unified Protector"



Minister Gabriel Oprea congratulating
the Navy men who arrived home

The minister of national defence, Gabriel Oprea, participated on Thursday, July 21, in the military ceremony organized for the arrival of Frigate F 221 "Regele Ferdinand" from the mission it carried out in the Mediterranean Sea within "Unified Protector".

Defence minister Oprea welcomed the frigate commander and crew and congratulated them on the professional way they implemented the arms embargo on Lybia: "I was truly convinced, upon your deployment for this mission, that you would be up to standards. Here we are, today, at the end of the mission, fully satisfied with the way you confirmed and justified our expectations. I was constantly updated on the way the mission unfolded and, each time, I highly appreciated the thoroughness with which the ship command planned, to the smallest detail, the missions assigned by the command of 'Unified Protector' Operation. As a man, an officer as well as the defence minister, I am fully aware of the meaning of team work, of the importance that every man knows, at all times, exactly what his job is".

The minister continued by emphasizing that the over 200 crew members and the two Navy officers, who were part of the staff of NATO's Maritime Group in the Mediterranean Sea, "contributed to the gallery of personal achievements with one more mission accomplished in an exemplary manner". They also enriched the experience and added value to the Romanian Navy Forces. Minister Gabriel Oprea continued saying that the balance of missions accomplished by Romanian Navy men highlights how they tapped into the source of experience "Unified Protector" offered them. He reminded, to this effect, the 150 people saved on the night of May 12 to 13 by the frigate crew and the support offered to the drifting boat.

"Together with the Romanian troops, who honor the Tricolor Flag in theaters of operations, such as Afghanistan and Western Balkans, and our comrades training with determination at home, you were up to the military oath you swore and presented the world a correct image of Romania: the image of honor, courage and respect for one's pledge. For this I wish to thank you on behalf of the great family the Romanian Armed Forces are and I am convinced you have the respect of each Romanian citizen, for the efforts and sacrifices you made serving the national Colors", the defence minister added.

The event, organized in Constanta military port, was attended by representatives of central and local authorities, officials from the ministry of national defence, retired and reserve military personnel and war veterans.

During its mission within the NATO-led Navy group conducting operation "UNIFIED PROTECTOR" - 2011, the frigate sailed over 17,400 NM and carried out about 770 specific missions.

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The Day of the Romanian Aviation and Air Force



The chief of the Air Force Staff, Major General Fănică Cârnu,
taking over the Colors of the Air Force Staff

The minister of national defence, Gabriel Oprea, participated in the military ceremony organized in celebration of the Day of the Romanian Aviation and Air Force on Wednesday, July 20. "Romania stands by its international commitments, joining the peacekeeping efforts, the support, stabilization and reconstruction of conflict areas. It joined the international fight against terror and Romanian military aviators are part of these efforts", stated the minister of defence Gabriel Oprea in his speech.

The minister mentioned "the heroism of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives, either in historical battle fields or, in the last years, in missions abroad or at home."

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, announced that the Romanian Air Force will be equipped with modern equipment, able to efficiently protect against threats: "The first aircraft C-27 J SPARTAN equip, at present, the Air Force and we won't stop here. State-of-the-art equipment will be procured for this military service".

On this occasion, the Colors were handed over to the Air Force Staff, in front of the Monument of Air Heroes in Bucharest. Flight formations, of the Romanian Air Force and the Ministry of Administration and Interior, consisting of MiG-21 LanceR, IAR-330, C-27J Spartan, IAR-99 SOIM, Mi-17 and EC-135 flew over the Aviatorilor Square. During the military and religious ceremony, wreaths were laid at the Monument of Air Heroes, in memory of all military and civil heroes.

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During last week, in Air Force military units across the country, wreath-laying ceremonies were organized at the monuments of the heroes, as well arms and equipment exhibitions. Representatives from the defence ministry, local public authorities, retired and reserve military personnel, war veterans participated in the activities.

Romanian Air Force were part of the troops deployed in missions abroad in the last twenty years in order to fulfill Romania's pledges in peacekeeping operations, in support, stabilization and reconstruction operations, conducted in conflict areas and engaged in the international fight against terrorism.

Romanian military airmen ensured the air connections for the troops of the other military services in the theaters of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan or the Western Balkans and conducted missions under NATO or EU aegis, such as Air Police in Baltic states, the operational command of the International Airport Kabul - for the second time under the responsibility of Romania - or the participation in Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Among the missions carried out by the Air Force this year, mention should be made of the evacuations from Lybia. By making an air bridge operational, for the first time since WW2, 317 people were evacuated from Lybia - 231 Romanians and 86 foreign citizens - and others were saved by the humanitarian flights.



Wreath-laying at the Monument of Air Heroes,
by the defence ministry leadership