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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

## U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Visits Romania

### Special points of interests:

- U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Visits Romania
- Signing ceremony of the last three arrangements for the implementation of the agreement between Romania and the United States of America concerning the location of the ballistic missile defense system in Romania
- The Scouts' Summer Camp
- Mission accomplished in Zabul Province, Afghanistan
- 84 Romanian citizens (and their family members) were repatriated from Gaza Strip
- Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, Met with Dean Thompson, Charge d'affaires ad-interim at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest
- Annual Convocation of the Romanian Defence Attachés
- Course for Journalists Reporting from Conflict Areas

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, Mr. Michael G. Vickers, Ph.D., on Wednesday, 30 July.

The two officials talked of the excellent intelligence exchanges and the development of bilateral cooperation in this respect.

Minister Duşa talked of the intention to keep developing defence relations with the USA, in the form of the Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century between the United States of America and Romania. The minister also emphasized his appreciation for the U.S. support in training personnel and developing capabilities, for the technical and logistics assistance given to the Romanian troops in Afghanistan.

The Romanian defence minister and the US Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence also discussed NATO's future mission in Afghanistan and the need for a continued cooperation in this theater of operations post-2014.

### Signing ceremony of the last three arrangements for the implementation of the agreement between Romania and the United States of America concerning the location of the ballistic missile defense system in Romania

The signing ceremony of the last three arrangements for the implementation of the agreement between Romania and the United States of America concerning the location of the ballistic missile defense system in Romania was held on Tuesday, July 29, at the National Military Club, in the presence of the Romanian charge d'affaires Dean Thompson, the co-chairman of the Joint Committee, Maj. Gen. Randy Kee, the Secretary of State for Defence Policy, Valeriu Nicuţ, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local authorities of Olt County.

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The arrangements concern the establishment of a position as liaison officer at EUCOM, of the Operational Control Center of the Ballistic Missile Defense System and environmental protection.

These are the last legal steps of the common inventory agreed with the American partner that mark the completion of this objective assumed by both parties six months earlier than the deadline.



The State Secretary for Defence Policy, Valeriu Nicuț, and Maj. Gen. Randy Kee, co-chairman of the Joint Committee, sign three arrangements for the implementation of the agreement concerning the location of the ballistic missile defense system in Romania

## The Scouts' Summer Camp

The 8th edition of the „Scouts' Summer Camp” began on Monday, July 28th, at the 21st „General Leonard Mociulschi” Mountain Battalion.

The camp was organized by the Information and Public Relations Directorate of the Ministry of National Defence, with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and „CAMARAZII” Charity Association as partners and the support of the Land Forces Staff.

Under the motto, „Be the best! Be up to the mark!”, the theme of this year's edition of the summer camp was acquiring basic knowledge on the Romanian Armed Forces, the promotion of the military career, presentation of certain military structures as well as the development of the physical attributes and the competitive and team spirit of the young participants.

Over the seven days of the summer camp, the schedule consisted of interactive activities where the young scouts learned basic notions of reconnaissance, terrain orientation procedures, survival techniques in isolated areas, crossing a river course, as well as other military tactical elements.

At the same time, the young people participated in sports competitions and visited military units of Braşov and Prahova County and touristic objectives.



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The participants, 44 students, girls and boys from across the country were selected during a national competition conducted on-line on [www.mapn.ro/tabara](http://www.mapn.ro/tabara) web-site, over 24 March – 11 May, 2014.

### **Mission accomplished in Zabul Province, Afghanistan**

The arrival ceremony of 20 Infantry Battalion „Dolj” and the closing ceremony of the Romanian Armed Forces’ mission in Afghanistan theatre of operations took place on Friday, July 18, 19.00, in Mihai Viteazul Square, Craiova County.

Detachments of soldiers carrying the Combat Colors of the units that participated in the ISAF mission conducted in Zabul Province marched together with the soldiers of the 20 Infantry Battalion „Dolj” on Alexandru Ioan Cuza Street.



Minister Mircea Dușa decorated the Combat Colors with “Onoarea Armatei României” Emblem

The Air Force’s aircraft that provided for the transportation of the soldiers to and back from the theater of operations from Afghanistan flew over the center of Craiova.

A detachment of 30 Guard Regiment „Mihai Viteazul” performed an armament handling demonstrative exercise and an exhibition displaying armament and combat equipment used by the Romanian soldiers in the missions accomplished in Zabul Province could be visited in William Shakespeare Square, at 19.40.

### **84 Romanian citizens (and their family members) were repatriated from Gaza Strip**

A group of 84 citizens and their family members were repatriated, at request, on July 14, 2014 from Gaza Strip and arrived to Romania the same day.

The crisis cell was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Titus Corlățean, and representatives of the Ministry of National Defence and of other institutions with responsibilities in the national security field.

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All repatriation actions were directly coordinated by the Prime Minister, Victor Ponta.

The costs of the entire evacuation operation were provided from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Romania's diplomatic missions from the area offered support and consular assistance to the Romanian citizens and their families who requested repatriation.

Consular teams equipped with mobile means to provide consular assistance were sent from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters.

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister of National Defence Mircea Duşa ordered the evacuation of the group of citizens with two aircraft (C 130 Hercules and C 27 J Spartan) of the Romanian Air Force which performed back and forth flights from Bucharest, Otopeni Airport to „Queen Alia” International Airport from Amman, Jordan.

C-130 HERCULES aircraft was operated by a crew headed by Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Takacs and the C-27 J SPARTAN crew was headed by Major (AF) Ion Stăiculescu.

The group of Romanian citizens and their families was taken from Gaza Strip, through Erez (Israel) border crossing point and was escorted up to Amman, by transiting the Israeli and Jordanian territories through Allenby/ King Hussein Bridge (Jordan) border crossing point.

In Amman, the group was embarked for Bucharest destination and was permanently assisted by consular teams made up of personnel assigned to Romania's diplomatic missions from Tel Aviv, Ramallah and Amman, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters as well as by specialized personnel military personnel.

The Romanian authorities officially thanked to the Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian authorities as well as to the Office of the United Nations Development Program from Jerusalem for the entire support offered throughout the entire repatriation operations.



Repatriation of the Romanian citizens and their family members



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**Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa,  
Met with Dean Thompson, Charge d'affaires ad-interim at the  
U.S. Embassy in Bucharest**

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with Dean Thompson, incoming Charge d'affaires ad-interim at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest and Duane Butcher, head of the U.S. diplomatic mission Duane Butcher, who is ending his term in Romania. On this introductory visit, Minister Duşa welcomed the US official and asserted the excellent defence cooperation based on the Strategic Partnership for the 21st century between Romania and the USA.



Defence Minister Mircea Duşa with Dean Thompson,  
Charge d'affaires ad-interim at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest

The defence minister thanked Duane Butcher for his contribution to the development of the bilateral cooperation projects and said he had high hopes that the trend of the bilateral cooperation would continue during the mandate of the current Charge d'affaires, Dean R. Thompson.

„Romania is a serious ally and partner, on which the USA and the Alliance can always rely”, was the message conveyed by the minister. Another topic approached by the defence minister was equipping the Air Force with multirole aircraft, a project developed with US support „a field in which we have an excellent cooperation”.

Mircea Duşa said further that "when we talk of multirole aircraft that equip NATO forces, we talk of modern, high performance aircraft, capable to carry out the combat missions of the Air Force. The talks agenda focused on the developments in the region, the priorities in terms of the future NATO Summit of Wales in September.

As concerns the NATO Summit of September, the Romanian defence minister said that it would reassert the goals of the alliance as well as the need of a more substantial financial contribution of the European allies.

Minister Mircea Duşa brought up the subject of the construction site of the missile defense system in Deveselu that goes according to the agreed schedule.

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As concerns the stage of the joint strategic projects, the sides expressed appreciation for the very good cooperation at the Mihail Kogalniceanu air base, which has a major role in the transit of U.S. and Allied forces toward and from Afghanistan.

The American officials appreciated the strong relationships between the two armed forces, the effort to participate in military operations and the development of the missile defence project in Deveselu. The defence minister reasserted Romania's military commitment to Afghanistan together with the allies in post 2014 "Resolute Support" mission.

### **Annual Convocation of the Romanian Defence Attachés**

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, attended, on Monday, July 7, the opening of the annual convocation of the Romanian defence attachés, taking place at the headquarters of the Ministry of National Defence over 7 to 11 July.

In this context, Minister Duşa reiterated the idea that NATO member states should stay united in the new context of the situation in the region.

On this occasion, he stated that Romania remains a credible partner of the Alliance through the joint projects and programs already undertaken. „Through you, this message should reach all our partners, confirming once more that our country respects its commitments” Minister Mircea Duşa pointed out.

One of the subjects on the agenda of the meeting was identifying new directions of cooperation of the MoND at NATO and EU level with strategic military partners.

Minister Duşa also told the military attachés that the transformation of the military and adapting legislation to the new security challenges should be continued. „The Romanian military attachés' role in meeting this objective is crucial” Minister Duşa added.

The activity was also attended by the chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Stefan Dănilă, the General Director of the Defence Intelligence General Directorate, Lieutenant General Marian Hăpău, while the Minister Of Foreign Affairs, Titus Corlăţean, was a guest at the event.



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**Course for Journalists Reporting from Conflict Areas**

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Edition 2014 of the Course for Journalists Reporting from Conflict Areas was organized by the Information and Public Relations Directorate of the Ministry of National Defence with the support of the 6th „Mihai Viteazul” Special Operations Brigade and the 71st „General Emanoil Ionescu” Air Base, in Tîrgu-Mureş, over 7 to 12 July.

The official opening of the training session was attended by Colonel Constantin Moraru, chief of the Information and Public Relations Directorate and Colonel Mircea-Dan Şuta, commander of the brigade of Tîrgu-Mureş.

The 17 journalists participating in the course acquired, during the theoretical module, knowledge on accreditation procedures, rules of conduct during military operations, safety and protection rules in conflict areas, aspects concerning operational security, risk assessment of theaters of operations, first aid maneuvers.

During the practical module, the journalists participated in different types of training, such as: developing specific physical skills, alpine training, first aid procedures, survival techniques, reading a map, using a compass and the GPS. Participants also attended demonstrative shooting with special operations weapons and parachute drops.

The participants were also familiarized with weapons and equipment of the brigade, how to act in case of an attack with improvised explosive devices, CBRN means of protection, crossing an area that was set on fire, how to act during a mission in an area of conflict.

So far, the course, now at its 14th edition, has trained 178 journalists since 2004.