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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**The “Carpathian Pumas” Detachment began its mission  
in Mali theater of operations and had its initial operational  
capability declared on October 21<sup>st</sup>**

## Special points of interests:

- The Romanian Naval Forces – the third NATO Mission in The Mediterranean in the last three years
- The “Carpathian Pumas” Detachment began its mission in Mali theater of operations and had its initial operational capability declared on October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Annual Reunion of South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM), in Bucharest
- Press statements of the defence ministers from Romania and North Macedonia



Transfer of authority ceremony

The transfer of authority ceremony of the Romanian Air Force “Carpathian Pumas” Detachment, from the Joint Forces Command to the United Nations Organizations took place on Tuesday, October 15, at Gao, in the Republic of Mali. Thus, the Romanian soldiers will begin their missions within the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali - MINUSMA.

On this occasion, “Carpathian Pumas” took over the responsibilities from their Canadian colleagues and the 4-Helicopter Detachment Commander, Commander Mischie, signed the certificate which regulates the taking over of the mission segment from the Canadian partners.

During the ceremony conducted in the presence of MINUSMA Commander, Lieutenant General Dr. Dennis T. Gyllensporre and the

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Romanian and Canadian defence ministries representatives, the Canadian flag was hauled down and the Romanian one hoisted, while two IAR-330 Puma L-RM Helicopters executed a vertical descend maneuver.

The almost 120 servicemen of the detachment (pilots, technical and medical personnel) will conduct, at the United Nations Organizations, medical evacuation – MEDEVAC and search and rescue– CASEVAC missions, troop and materiel airlift, passenger transportation missions, air patrol and UN monitoring missions

The initial operational capability of “Carpathian Pumas” Detachment which is on mission, in Mali, was declared on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Thus, the Romanian servicemen can conduct MEDEVAC/CASEVAC missions at the request of the UN representatives, with a helicopter equipped with medical devices and a second helicopter as escort, based on the emerging operational requirements.

According to the requirements needed to be met in order to declare initial operational capability, the pilots executed reconnaissance and familiarization flights in the area of operations both during the day and at night and MEDEVAC exercises, with their German partners.

The Romanian soldiers will continue their training with a view of having their final operational capability declared by the beginning of November and assuming the other types of missions, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) such as troops, materiel and equipment airlift, extraction and air patrol.

### **The Romanian Naval Forces – the third NATO Mission in the Mediterranean in the last three years**

Frigate “King Ferdinand” – together with a Puma Naval Helicopter and a Naval Special Operations Forces Squad on board – left Constanța Military Harbor for the Mediterranean on Friday, 18 October, in order to participate in NATO Operation “Sea Guardian 19” (OSG) between 18 October-7 November, as well as in Multinational Exercise “Dogu Akdeniz” organized by Turkey, over 9-20 November.

The main goal of Operation “Sea Guardian” from the Mediterranean is the deterrence of the illegal activities conducted on the Southern Flank of NATO and EU by monitoring the maritime traffic. The operation is conducted by the NATO Maritime Command (MARCOM).

By participating in the NATO-led missions, exercises and operations, the Romanian Naval Forces contribute to the Alliance effort for ensuring the collective security measures and demonstrate that Romanian is a partner which meets its commitments.

Throughout the mission, Frigate “King Ferdinand” will make stop-overs in Aksaz (Turkey), Alexandria (Egypt), Haifa (Israel) and Limassol (Cyprus) Harbors. Naval diplomacy activities, visits and

meeting with the local civilian and military officials are planned to take place in Alexandria, Haifa and Limassol Harbors.

As a first, the Romanian Naval Forces, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Romanians Worldwide, invited members of the Romanian local communities from Egypt, Israel and Cyprus to visit “King Ferdinand” Frigate. Part of the cultural activity conducted by Mangalia Military Club was presented onboard of the frigate by exhibiting certain paintings of Niculae Găgeanu and Alexandru Ghinea painters-members of the Union of the Plastic Artists from Romania-depicting naval subjects, as well as the novels “Poveștile Mării Negre”, written by Cristian Cealera and “Lotus stelar” by Emilia Dabu. The children received symbolic gifts made by the military students of the Romanian Naval Forces institutions.

The ship is headed by Captain Marian Ioan with a crew consisting in 240 soldiers (out of which 9 are women) with an average age of 30.

### **Annual Reunion of South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM), in Bucharest**

Annual Reunion of South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM Ministerial) took place on October 16, at BNR Palace, Bucharest.

The Reunion was chaired by the Chairman of the Coordination Committee of the SEDM, Albanian Deputy Defence Minister, Petro Koçi, and attended by representatives of defence ministries from SEDM member states: Romanian State Secretary Doru Claudian

Frunzulică, Defence Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Pavel Voicu, as well as the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, Ambassador Tacan Ildem, and Director of the Center for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), Jeronim Bazo.



**Annual Reunion of South Eastern Europe  
Defence Ministerial (SEDM)**



The activity was a good opportunity to restate Romania's commitment for the on-going projects run within the initiative as well as to support certain proposals to consolidate SEDM as the main cooperation format in South-Eastern Europe, in the context of the evolution of the security situation in the region.

On this occasion, the Chairman of the SEDM Coordination Committee, Petro Koçi, and State Secretary Doru Claudian Frunzuliță made press statements on Wednesday, October 16, at 13.30.

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SEDM is a regional initiative that contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening good neighborhood relations and close cooperation among the South-East European states, by providing a platform for political-military dialogue and involving in projects with practical applicability in the field of security and regional stability.

The SEDM process includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Italy, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, United States of America, Turkey and Ukraine, and the Republic of Moldova as observer.

Between 2019 and 2021, Albania will chair the Coordination Committee of the SEDM, as well as the Political Military Steering Committee of the Multinational Peacekeeping Brigade of South-Eastern Europe.

### **Press statements of the defence ministers from Romania and North Macedonia**

Defence Minister Gabriel Leș had an official meeting with his counterpart from North Macedonia, Radmila Šekerinska-Jankovska, on Tuesday, October 8.

During the talks, the officials approached topics referring to bilateral and regional cooperation, as well as the cooperation within EU and North-Atlantic Alliance, since the Republic of North Macedonia will become the 30<sup>th</sup> NATO member state.



Official meeting

At the end of the meeting, the ministers made press statements at the MoND Headquarters.