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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Reunion of the Romanian – American Steering Committee

Special points of interests:

- Reunion of the Romanian – American Steering Committee
- Defence Minister's meeting with Japan's Ambassador to Romania, at the MoND Headquarters
- Defence Minister's meeting with the Canadian Ambassador to Bucharest, at the MoND Headquarters
- Defence Minister's visit at Deveselu
- Defence Minister's meeting with the US Ambassador to Bucharest
- 11 November – The Veterans' Day

The Reunion of the Romanian – American Steering Committee for the implementation of the “Agreement between Romania and the United States of America on the activities of forces stationed on Romanian territory (DCA), signed at Bucharest on December 6, 2005 and the “Agreement between Romania and the United States of America on the deployment of the Ballistic Missile Defence System to Romania” (BMDA) signed at Washington, on September 13, 2011, took place at the National Military Club, over 21 and 22 November.

The Romanian-American Steering Committee coordinates and acts in the political and military fields, at the level of the execution commissioned officers, according to the specifications in force or in support of the Romanian-American Mixed Committee, which is a bilateral working body whose Chairman is the State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations from the MoND.

The Romanian delegation was headed by the Romanian co-Chairman of the Steering Committee, Colonel Alin Moiceanu, from the Department for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations and was made up of experts and invitees from the Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finances.

The US Delegation was headed by the American co-Chairman of the Steering Committee, Colonel Geoffrey WRIGHT, the chief of North-Eastern European Division, Plans and Strategies Directorate, United States European Command (USEUCOM) and was made up of experts and invitees from the United States Army Europe (USAREUR), United States Air Force Europe (USAFE), United States Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR), United States Marine Forces Europe (MARFOREUR), as well as representatives of Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base and US Embassy to Bucharest.

During the reunion, the Romanian and American officials reviewed the activities performed since the previous meeting of the Steering

Committee conducted in November 2018 and approached topics referring to bilateral and multinational exercises scheduled to take place over the following two years and the infrastructure projects developed by the US partner within the facilities and areas put at its disposal in accordance with the provisions of the DCA.

In this context, the officials discussed the extension plans of the Mihail Kogălniceanu and Câmpia Turzii Air Bases, the provisions stipulated within certain implementation arrangements deriving from DCA and BMDA agreements as well as other common interest aspects regarding the implementation process of the two bilateral agreements. Also, the support and contribution of the Romanian part in the development of the infrastructure projects and the extension of the two air bases were presented.

In this respect, the Romanian party informed its US partners about the decisions issued by the Romanian Government with regard to the approval of the funds necessary to extend and modernize the two air bases from Mihail Kogălniceanu and Câmpia Turzii, as well as about the steps made at inter-ministerial level in order to solve certain issues identified during the former reunions, which go beyond the competence of the Ministry of National Defence.

During the reunion, the American partners were informed on the fact that our country is firmly in favor of an augmentation of the US troops in Romania, in accordance with the position expressed by Romania's President during the meeting with the US President, at the White House, in August.

Defence Minister's meeting with Japan's Ambassador to Romania, at the MoND Headquarters

On 21 November, Minister of National Defence, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, received the visit of The Japanese Ambassador to Romania, Hitoshi Noda, at the MoND Headquarters.

The main topic of the official meeting was the increase of bilateral cooperation in the field of defence.

The Minister of National Defence thanked the Japanese Ambassador for the interest showed in the MoND, especially in the context of an ever more complicated security environment.



Defence Minister's meeting with Japan's Ambassador to Romania,
at the MoND Headquarters

At the same time, the minister confirmed the participation of a MoND representative in the first bilateral dialogue which will take place at the beginning of December, in Tokyo. The dialogue aimed at identifying topics of common interest which will lay the foundation for the initiation of negotiations for a bilateral agreement in the field of defence.

“We commonly agreed upon the importance of maintaining a constant political-military dialogue, taking into consideration the evolutions of the international security environment”, minister Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă concluded.

Defence Minister’s meeting with the Canadian Ambassador to Bucharest, at the MoND Headquarters

On 21 November, Minister of National Defence, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, received the visit of the Canadian Ambassador to Romania, Kevin Hamilton, at the MoND Headquarters.

The meeting was a good opportunity to discuss about the status of the Romanian-Canadian cooperation in the field of defence and the collaboration perspectives at bilateral level and within NATO and UN.

The defence minister thanked the Canadian Ambassador for his country’s significant and constant contribution in the implementation of the consolidation measures on the Allied Eastern flank, by emphasizing Canada’s participation over the last year in the enhanced Air Policing missions conducted on Romanian territory.

Also, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă highlighted the importance of the trans-Atlantic relation in ensuring European security, taking into consideration the current security challenges emerging in the Black Sea region.

“The Romanian-Canadian cooperation within the UN, by means of Romanian’s contribution to MINUSMA Mission from Mali, shows that the pace of the bilateral partnerships and the political-military dialogue are excellent and we shall continue together in this direction “; the defence minister concluded.



Welcoming the Canadian Ambassador to Bucharest, at the MoND Headquarters

Defence Minister's visit at Deveselu

On 19 November, Minister of National Defence, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, together with Ambassadors of the NATO member states accredited to Bucharest, made an information visit to 99 Deveselu Military Base, following the invitation of the United States Ambassador to Bucharest.

During the visit made in the base which hosts the Aegis Ashore System, the members of the official delegation emphasized the efforts made by Romania in



Defence Minister's visit to Deveselu

rendering the military facility operational but also the support offered to the United States in hosting this ballistic missile defence capability, which was put at the disposal of the North-Atlantic Alliance.

Minister Ciucă thanked the Romanian and American servicemen who conducted their activity during the previous rotations or who are currently deployed in this military facility for their achievements, at the same time emphasizing the importance of the project as part of the Strategic Partnership between Romania and the United States of America.

Also, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă reiterated the defensive character of the system hosted by Romania, which is designated to counteract the ballistic threats emerging from outside the Euro-Atlantic area.

Defence Minister's meeting with the US Ambassador to Bucharest

On 14 November, the minister of national defence, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, had a meeting with the US Ambassador to Bucharest, Hans Klemm, at the MoND Headquarters.

It was the first meeting since Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă had taken over his mandate as minister and represented a good opportunity for tackling common interest topics with respect to the cooperation with the USA both at bilateral level and within allied context.

During the talks, the officials highlighted the dynamic development of the Strategic Partnership between Romania and the United States of America as well as perspectives of increasing cooperation in

the field of defence – taking into consideration the current security context – as essential elements for ensuring Romania's security and stability and of the region our country is part of.

Minister Nicolae Ionel Ciucă reiterated Romania's commitment to the common projects between the two armed forces and to allocating 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures, emphasizing the fact that the Government totally supports maintaining the amount of this percentage.

“Our endeavor will ensure predictability, coherence and continuity in the process of running the procurement programs”, Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă declared.



The visit of the US Ambassador to Romania, Hans Klemm

11 November – The Veterans' Day

On 11 November, on the occasion of the Veterans' Day, military and religious ceremonies were organized in Bucharest and in the garrisons where there are military units which executed missions in the theaters of operations. Similar activities also took place at the tombs and monuments erected in the honor of the sacrifice and heroism of the Romanian servicemen that lost their lives in the theaters of operations.



Bucharest – The Veterans' Day



In the capital city, a military, religious and wreath laying ceremony took place at the Monument of the Heroes Fallen in the Theatres of Operations and on Romanian territory in Tineretului Park.

At 11.00, the bells were rung in all churches and chapels built within the military units in the honor of the heroes fallen.

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The Veterans' Day was established by law no.150/2014, which changes and completes Government Ordinance no.82/2006 for the acknowledgement of the merits of the military personnel participating in military actions and granting of certain rights to the individuals concerned and their families and the successor of the deceased personnel.

11 November was chosen for its symbolism – the entrance in force of the Armistice between the Entente Powers and Germany on 11 November 1918, 11.00, which stipulated the end of the World War I and established the prerequisites for the establishment of the Great Union of December 1st 1918.

Another significance of this day for the Romanian Armed Forces is given by the fact that Second Lieutenant p.m. Iosif Silviu Fogorași fell on duty on the same day (11 November 2003), being the first Romanian soldier who lost his life in the theater of operations from Afghanistan.

Throughout 1996-2019, Romania lost 30 servicemen in the missions performed in the theaters of operations, while over 190 soldiers were injured.