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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Romanian Defence Delegation Visits the USA

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Meeting of defence minister Mircea Duşa with his American counterpart, Charles Timothy Hagel

Mircea Dusa: US-Romanian Strategic Partnership is one of the main lines of action of Romania's foreign and defence policy

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, made a visit to the USA, on 17 and 18 October. The most important moment of Minister Dusa's visit in USA was the meeting with his US counterpart, Charles Timothy Hagel, on 18 October. The meeting of the two officials started with the welcome ceremony with military honors at the Pentagon and continued with talks with all the members of the two delegations.

On this occasion, the Romanian defence minister thanked the USA for the support given to bilateral cooperation, which he appreciated as „solid, based on trust and continuity“, while his American counterpart shared the same opinion.

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The two officials talked of the international security environment, exchanged ideas on the development of defence capabilities within NATO through projects such as „Smart Defense“ against the background of the global economic crisis and limited defence resources, as well as main aspects of the US-Romanian strategic partnership.

They talked of the acquisition program of F-16 aircraft for the Romanian military and pilots' training, cooperation with a view to withdrawing from Afghanistan and the stage of the defence missile works at Deveselu. As to the last subject, Minister Duşa emphasized that Romania fulfilled its commitments in due time and will continue to do so until the project is completed. Afghanistan was another important point on the agenda. The Romanian defence minister pointed out that the period after 2014 will be a new transformation stage when Romania will continue to be engaged in maintaining the cohesion and stability of the Alliance. The medical treatment given to Romanian soldiers in American hospitals and the support of Romanian troops in carrying out their missions were elements the Romanian delegation wished to point out during the meeting.

The two officials „also agreed to look for ways to expand our strong military cooperation as well as to support Romania's efforts to become a leader in the region and in NATO.“

The Romanian defence minister's agenda of Friday, 18 October, included also a meeting with Rose Gottemoeller, assistant secretary of state for verification and compliance and Frank Rose, U.S Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Policy and Verification Operations at the US Department of State. The topics discussed were the US-Romania Strategic Partnership on Romanian defence procurement with multirole aircraft F-16, pilots' training in cooperation with the American partner and the stage of preparing the ceremony marking the beginning of the works at US facility at Deveselu military base at the end of October.

Other topics included talks on steps made by the international community and the main security organizations for the destruction of production means and arsenal of chemical weapons of Syria.

Defence Minister's Meeting with Members of the Atlantic Council

On 17 October, the Romanian defence minister (during his visit in USA) participated in the meeting on „The stage of bilateral US-Romanian bilateral programs“ organized by the US Atlantic Council, in Washington D.C.

During the discussions, the Romanian defence minister's presentation focused on two main topics, namely post-2014 NATO mission and the role of missile defence.

Mircea Duşa stated that 2014 represents a defining landmark for NATO: „The withdrawal from Afghanistan marks the beginning of a new era in the existence of the Alliance. The end of the largest allied operation brings opportunities for the recalibration of priorities and commitments. Moreover, NATO agenda needs a new generation of opportunities in terms of developing defence capabilities“.

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The defence minister's message highlighted the fact that Romania continues to be one of the most active supporters of developing a new NATO capability of missile defence, as the US missile defence program in Europe is in compliance with the common agreement on developing an allied architecture in the field of missile defence.

„Deveselu missile defence location is one of the most important pillars of the Romania- USA Strategic Partnership in terms of security, a valuable contribution to developing NATO capabilities in the field“, the defence minister said.

Last but not least, the talks approached the topic of a common front in the field of cyber defence, by highlighting the importance of implementing „Cyber Defence“ concept in all NATO member states. In this respect, Mircea Duşa stressed that an attack against one single state can result in weakening the entire Alliance because of the present state of connections and networking, an opinion agreed on by all the other participants in the meeting.

During the reunion, the main message of the Council representatives was that we need an active Alliance able to respond to threats such as terrorism, conflicts, cyber threats or arms smuggling.

The talks agenda included the procurement program of the Romanian Air Force with F-16 multirole aircraft, the defence budget, the security situation in Syria and the importance of special operations forces.

Before meeting the members of the US Atlantic Council, defence minister Mircea Duşa visited the military base of Moorestown, New Jersey, where AEGIS combat system was transformed from a naval weapon system into a ground based one.

Official Visit of the Chief of General Staff in Slovenia

Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă, chief of General Staff, made an official visit to his Slovenian counterpart, from 15 to 18 October.

During the meeting with the Slovenian chief of General Staff, Brigadier General Dobran BOŽIČ, the two officials talked of bilateral cooperation, they analyzed the regional initiatives the two armed forces are involved in, future cooperation projects, the regional security environment and the perspectives of its evolution.

„Romanian and Slovenian participation in NATO operations in Afghanistan and the Balkans, the two countries' contribution to the strategic multinational capabilities made available for the Alliance and to the new projects for „Smart Defence“ and „Connected Forces“ initiatives prove their endorsement of the allied transformation process“, Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă said.

The importance of a firm medium and long-term engagement in Afghanistan, in the absence of which the major successes obtained so far could be diluted, was also highlighted.

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„Romania is aware that ensuring stability in Afghanistan after 2014 is essential for a sustained success of ISAF mission. In this respect we are analyzing the possibility of a concrete participation in „Resolute Support“, the new NATO mission, and expect the end of negotiations with the Afghan Government and the approval of the planning documents of the allies“ the Romanian chief of General Staff said further.



Chief of General Staff with soldiers of the Slovenian special forces

A more efficient cooperation and information exchange between EU and NATO could result in harmonizing the development of capabilities and avoiding duplication, was the conclusion reached by the two military officials.

As to the cooperation within regional initiatives, the two officials talked of the possibility that Slovenia become part of the project South-East Multinational Peace Force as a full member.

Celebrating the Day of the Romanian Armed Forces in Schools

The Ministry of National Defence organized the event „Celebrating the Day of the Romanian Armed Forces in Schools“ from 17 to 25 October.

The second event of this kind organized by the defence ministry was unfold in high schools of Bucharest (one in each of the city sectors) and across the country (about 70 schools and high schools).

Teams made up of troops representing the three services, pupils and students from military education institutions, historians, war veterans and representatives of the information and recruiting offices briefed the young students on the importance of the Day of the Romanian Armed Forces and the military career.

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Gabriel Vlase, Vice-President of NATO Parliamentary Assembly

On 13 October, The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, saluted the nomination of Gabriel Vlase as Vice-President of NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

„I advocate at all the official meetings in which I participate that Romania will observe all the commitments assumed within the Alliance and we will continue to be a reliable partner“, minister Mircea Duşa stated.

The Romanian official highlighted that only a strong Europe firmly engaged in investing in security and defence can promote a successful defence and security policy. ISAF and the future NATO mission in Afghanistan can only be ensured by maintaining the cohesion and solidarity of the Alliance“.

Romania and Portugal Signed the Acquisition of F-16 aircraft

On 11 October, MoND announced that the Governments of Romania and Portugal signed the contract for the acquisition of 12 F-16 modernized aircraft that will equip the Romanian Air Force. At the end of the technical and financial negotiations, the acquisition contract was signed after the transfer was authorized by the American side. This kind of authorization by the US Congress is required before any agreement. Over the next period of time, the aircraft will be upgraded and the engines will undergo capital repairs. The Romanian personnel- namely 9 pilots and 75 technicians-that will operate F-16 aircraft will start training in Portugal.

The first aircraft are scheduled to be delivered in Romania in 2016, so that by the end of 2017, the aircraft reach the operational level needed to operate them in combat, in agreement with the contract signed with Portuguese Government and with the subsequent contracts to be signed with the US Government. The Government of Romania will use the aircraft to increase the security of its airspace and the interoperability with NATO forces.

A New C-27J SPARTAN Cargo Plane for the Romanian Air Force

The 6th C-27J SPARTAN medium-sized military transport aircraft will equip the Romanian Air Force for MEDEVAC missions.

An event was organized at the 90th Airlift Flotilla on Thursday, 10 October at 14.00, where the Ministry of National Defence presented the military transport fleet and the IAR 330 Puma helicopters of the Air Force, designed to carry out MEDEVAC, troops and materials transport missions. The event was attended by the Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, and the chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă.

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Annual Meeting of South Eastern Europe Defence Ministers

Romania ensures the chairmanship of the Political and Military Steering Committee of the Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe and of the South East Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee over 2013-2015.

The 18th SEDM Reunion took place on 2 and 3 October at Brdo, Slovenia, with an agenda that included 2013 projects and activities of MPFSEE. The activity was attended by a delegation of the defence ministry headed by Secretary General Codrin-Dumitru Munteanu.

The following nations are members of this regional cooperation initiative: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, the United States of America and Ukraine. Georgia and Republic of Moldova are observers.