

**February 18th, 2013****Issue no. 1**

110 Izvor St., Bucharest, Romania

tel/fax +4021-3195698

e-mail: drp@mapn.ro

www.mapn.gov.ro

ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

The repatriation ceremony of the
Romanian Special Operations Forces Task Group

Special points of interests:

- The repatriation ceremony of the Romanian Special Operations Forces Task Group
- The Minister of National Defence met with representatives of the US Embassy in Romania
- The first 2013 reunion of NATO's Military Committee
- Hand over –take over ceremony of „TISA“ Multinational Engineer Battalion Steering Group's Chairmanship



Ceremony for the return of the Romanian Special Operations Forces Task Group -ROUSOTG1- from Afghanistan

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Dusa, the chief of General Staff, Lieutenant-General Stefan Danila, the chief of Land Forces Staff Lieutenant-General Sorin Ioan and the general director of the General Directorate for Defence Intelligence, Lieutenant-General Ilie Botoșan participated in the ceremony organized for the repatriation of the Romanian Special Operations Forces Task Group, at the headquarters of the „Vulturii“ Special Operations Battalion, on Tuesday, 8 January.

Minister Mircea Dusa thanked the troops' families for the achievements and praised the conduct of the detachment commander.

For over seven months, the troops of the Romanian special operations forces carried out military assistance missions for the benefit of the Afghan security forces and other specific special ops missions aimed at neutralizing insurgent groups operating in Eastern Afghanistan.

The detachment members were awarded many decorations for their deeds, by Romanian and American authorities, whereas an NCO was awarded the National Medal for Merit, 3rd class, with war insignia.

February 18th, 2013

Issue no. 1

Pag. 2

The Minister of National Defence met with representatives of the US Embassy in Romania



**The U.S. delegation at the meeting with
National Defence Minister Mircea Dusa**

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Dusa, had a meeting with representatives of the US Embassy in Romania, today, 10 January. The delegation headed by Duane Butcher, U.S. Chargé d'affaires ad interim, included Colonel Roderick E. Dorsey Jr., Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché and Joseph Trimble, Deputy Political Chief.

From the very beginning, Minister Mircea Dusa thanked the US delegation for the constant support the USA has been offering to our country, mentioning once more that, as part of the strategic partnership between Romania and the U.S., military relations are close,

involving a series of long-term partnerships in the defense ministry and in missions in operation theaters. On this occasion, the Romanian Minister sent his congratulations for the nomination of the new U.S. Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel.

At the same time, the American delegation congratulated the National Defense Minister for his new term.

National Defence Minister Mircea Dusa stated that the objectives related to the missions and responsibilities Romania has as a NATO and EU member state and those assumed through the Romanian-American partnership are the maximum importance priority of his term as the ministry's leader.

The first 2013 reunion of NATO's Military Committee

The chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ștefan Danila, participated in the first 2013 meeting of the Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence format of NATO members and Partner countries, over 16 and 17 January.

Before the meeting, the CHODS had an informal meeting with NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

The first session of the 168th NATO Chiefs of Defence meeting will begin with the CHODS from the Mediterranean Dialogue partner countries. NATO members and Partners were briefed on the current situation and progress in Afghanistan. The Military Committee will be updated on the development of the planning for the post 2014 mission to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces. The CHODS reaffirmed their commitment to support the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in achieving a successful transition of security to the Afghan forces over the next 2 years. They also discussed the potential scope and challenges for the new mission and agreed to stay committed to training, advising and assisting the Afghan forces also after 2014.

By the end of the first working session, the Military Committee in NATO-Russia Council format agreed on an ambitious programme of work for cooperation in 2013. They also recognized the tangible benefits achieved in 2012, particularly on counter-piracy.

February 18th, 2013

Issue no. 1

Pag. 3

**Aspect from NATO's Military Committee Reunion**

In the Euro Atlantic Partners session, nations focused on specific working areas related to increasing transparency and developing mutually supporting capabilities.

During the second day of the meeting, the Military Committee reviewed the progress of the NATO Mission in Kosovo reiterating their commitment to ensure the necessary force structure to fulfill the mission.

NATO Military Committee concluded their meetings with a session on transformation, Allies recognising that the Connected Forces Initiative should be a priority, given current operational and economic challenges, and agreed on bringing this initiative to the top of their agenda for future Military Committee meetings.

Delivering his final remarks, General Bartels concluded: „Revitalizing the NATO Response Force will be crucial to this endeavor... I believe the NATO Response Force is the perfect platform to develop common doctrines and bring transformation forward“.

Hand over –take over ceremony of „TISA“ Multinational Engineer Battalion Steering Group's Chairmanship

Romania handed over and Slovakia took over the lead nation role of „TISA“ Multinational Engineer Battalion during a ceremony organized at the Land Forces Academy „Nicolae Balcescu“ of Sibiu, on 30 January. Slovakia will exercise its lead nation role of this regional initiative for one year.

The handover/takeover protocol was signed by the Romanian deputy chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Dan Ghica-Radu and the Slovak deputy chief of General Staff, Major General Miroslav Kocian.

For the time we had the lead nation role of „TISA“ Initiative, Romania made a point of asserting the Multinational Engineer Battalion „TISA“ as an important cooperation tool among the countries in the region for the prevention of natural disasters and removal of their consequences. Romania met its goals, this fact being emphasized in last year's multinational exercise Blonde Avalanche 12 conducted at Braila, with the participation of the observers from Moldova, Serbia and the USA.

**Handover/takeover protocol signed for the transfer of authority of „TISA“ Multinational Engineer Battalion.**