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110 Izvor St., Bucharest, Romania

tel/fax +4021-3195698

e-mail: drp@mapn.ro

www.mapn.gov.ro

# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Special Operations soldiers participate in  
NATO “Resolute Support” Mission**

## Special points of interests:

- Special Operations soldiers participate in NATO “Resolute Support” Mission
- The ceremony for leaving on mission to the theater of operations from Afghanistan of the soldiers 33 “Posada” Mountain Troop Battalion
- Opening Ceremony of Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 15.1
- NATO Defence Ministers decided to establish multinational command and control elements in Romania
- Meeting of the Romanian and British Defence Ministers
- Phone Conversation between the Romanian and German Defence Ministers
- Bilateral Meeting of the Romanian and Bulgarian Defence Ministers



The Defence Minister addressing the soldiers

On Friday, February 20, at the unit headquarters from Târgu Mureș, Defence Minister Mircea Duşa participated in the ceremony that marked the leaving of a Romanian Special Operations Group on mission to Afghanistan. The Romanian soldiers will offer counseling to the Afghan security forces for a six-month period as part of NATO „Resolute Support” Mission.

## **The ceremony for leaving on mission to the theater of operations from Afghanistan of the soldiers 33 “Posada” Mountain Troop Battalion**

Defence Minister Mircea Duşa and the Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Nicolae Ciucă, participated in the ceremony that marked the leaving on mission to the theater of operations from Afghanistan of the soldiers 33 “Posada” Mountain Troop Battalion on Friday, February 13, in the Central Square, from Curtea de Argeș Municipality.

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The soldiers will ensure the protection of KANDAHAR military base and will counsel the Afghan security forces, thus contributing to the achievement of a security climate required to maintain political and social stability of the region.

Up to present, the battalion soldiers have participated in four international missions in the theaters of operations from Iraq and Afghanistan.



Unfolding ceremony

## Opening Ceremony of Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 15.1

The opening ceremony of the multinational exercise Black Sea Rotational Force 15.1 took place at Mihail Kogălniceanu base, Constanța County, on Monday, February 9. The ceremony also marked the end of the multinational exercise BSRF 14.3, conducted in training facilities at home, as well as in Bulgaria and Serbia, over September 2014 to February 2015. Side by side with the Romanian soldiers participating in the common training activities were troops from Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia and the USA.

BSRF-15.1 is an annual exercise of the U.S. Marines Command deployed to Europe and Africa conducted in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions. The exercise aims at increasing interoperability by training the troops in common for peacekeeping and counter-insurgency operations. Troops from Bulgaria, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Great Britain, Romania and the USA participate in the exercise, which was planned in the previous year and included in the Plan with the main activities of the General Staff, whereas the common training will be conducted in Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania.



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## NATO Defence Ministers decided to establish multinational command and control elements in Romania



The defence ministers participating in the NATO meeting in Brussels

NATO Defence Ministers agreed in Brussels, today, February 5, to continue the assurance measures in 2015, to enhance the NATO Response Force and to create a new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force.

In addition, they decided on the immediate establishment of the first six multinational command and control elements, the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIUs), on the territories of Romania, Poland, Bulgaria and the three Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania).

During the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Defence Ministers Session, specific decisions were taken on implementing the goals established at the NATO Wales Summit, especially on the Readiness Action Plan.

Romania announced it will create and render operational two NATO command and control elements, NFIUs, that it will make available a new deployable Multinational Divisional Headquarters as Multinational Division Southeast and will ensure the support of the host nation for the allied capabilities and forces to be deployed in the area, as well as its own contributions, in terms of forces, to NRF/VJTF. Discussed were topics of interest on the agenda of the Alliance, NATO nuclear policy, whereas in the NATO-Georgia Commission they tackled the security situation and the progress made by Georgia in reforming its security, defence and cooperation with the alliance.

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### **Meeting of the Romanian and British Defence Ministers**

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In the context of NATO Defence Ministers' Meeting, the Romanian Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with the British Defence Minister, Mr. Michael Fallon, on Thursday, February 5.

The two ministers had talks on the Romanian-British cooperation, the topics on the defence ministers' meeting agenda and the security situation in the extended Black Sea region.

Speaking of the cooperation between the two armed forces, minister Duşa appreciated the commitment of Great Britain to intensify cooperation with Romania in terms of strategic dialogue and security.

The two officials emphasized the importance of the concrete decisions to be adopted during the reunion on NATO assurance measures and implementing the Readiness Action Plan. They pointed out the importance of creating some command and control elements in Romania and other states in Eastern Europe as part of the allied measures to adapt to the new security environment.

As to the worsening of the security situation in the Black Sea region and the latest developments in Ukraine, the Romanian defence minister talked of the need to continue and even to strengthen the assurance measures of the Alliance in 2015.

The British defence minister expressed his solidarity with Romania's concerns and pointed out the intention of the authorities in London to endorse actively the adapting and assurance measures implemented at allied level in the present strategic context. Michael Fallon also talked of the decision to increase the participation of British soldiers in exercises organized in Romania as part of the assurance measures and to participate with military personnel in creating the command and control elements to become operational in our country.

### **Phone Conversation between the Romanian and German Defence Ministers**

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The Romanian Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, discussed today, January 30, over the phone, with his Germany counterpart, the defence minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen. The conversation was related to the NATO Defence Ministerial to take place in Brussels, in February.

The analysis of the security situation in the eastern flank of the Alliance, the agenda of NATO Defence Ministerial and bilateral cooperation were the topics tackled by the two officials.

As to bilateral cooperation, the Romanian defence minister stressed the importance of the high level political and military dialogue. "The two countries have excellent opportunities to train in common their Special Operations Forces and to cooperate also in the more general context offered by the initiative of the Interconnected Forces", minister Duşa said.

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The two ministers discussed the stage of implementing the decisions adopted at the NATO Summit in Wales, as a central element on the Defence Ministerial agenda. Both the Romanian and the German defence minister stressed the importance of the agreed calendar, concerning the Action Plan to augment the operational capability of the Alliance.

### **Bilateral Meeting of the Romanian and Bulgarian Defence Ministers**

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with his Bulgarian counterpart, Mr. Nikolay Nankov Nenchev, at the Bulgarian defence ministry HQ, on Tuesday, January 27.

The agenda of NATO Defence Ministerial of early February and bilateral cooperation were topics discussed by the two officials.

The political and military situation in the region was the first topic of the ministers' dialogue, when the two officials expressed their concern on the recent events in Ukraine. Minister Duşa stressed out that the two countries should identify common ground according to the new strategic conjecture in the Eastern neighboring region.

As to the implementation of the action plan to increase the operational capability of the Alliance, as one of the topics on the agenda of NATO Defence Ministerial of early February, the two delegations discussed and identified common positions concerning the reassurance and adapting measures of the Alliance. The two officials tackled concrete steps for implementing such measures, according to the established calendar and the tasks of their respective countries.

Minister Mircea Duşa appreciated the level of bilateral cooperation among the two countries and expressed his belief that new fields of interest would be identified. A special interest raised the possibility to share information, in terms of lessons learned, on several major procurement programs as well as the common education and training of troops.

In turn, the Bulgarian defence minister expressed his satisfaction concerning the relations of bilateral cooperation and said he endorses an ongoing bilateral dialogue at strategic level.

Germany and Romania will continue talks and bilateral consultations meant to intensify cooperation to develop capabilities and initiatives adopted by NATO.