



MILITARY REVIEW

NEWSLETTER

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DEFENCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ceremony at Montgomery to mark three decades of State Partnership Program between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard

Being on an official visit to the United States of America, the Minister of National Defense, Angel Tîlvăr, participated, on April 4, in a ceremony organized for the first time at the Joint Forces Command Headquarters of the Alabama National Guard (ALNG) in Montgomery, to celebrate 30 years of cooperation within the State Partnership Program (SPP) between the Romanian Armed Forces and ALNG.

Over the last three decades, the State Partnership Program represented a platform for the progressive increase of cooperation between the Romanian and American military personnel.

In his speech, Minister Angel Tîlvăr highlighted the importance of joint training between the Romanian and American soldiers, which proved to be an essential factor in consolidating the Romania-US Strategic Partnership. "One of the main concerns of the present is the illegal, aggressive and unprovoked war of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. Joint training must continue so that together we can defend democracy, the values we believe in, NATO's Eastern flank and, not least, maintain stability in the Black Sea region. I am confident in what we can do together, all the more so since we expand this collaboration."

The ceremony in Montgomery marked the success of the three-decade collaboration between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard. In this context, the Commander of Alabama National Guard, Major General Sheryl Gordon, handed Minister Angel Tîlvăr the "Proclamation of recognition and congratulation for Alabama National Guard and the Romanian state for marking



Ceremony at Montgomery to mark three decades of State Partnership Program between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard

30 years of partnership within the US State Partnership Program “, conferred by the Governor of Alabama State, Kay Ivey.

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The US State Partnership Program was initiated 30 years ago, after the fall of the Soviet Union, aiming at supporting the countries behind the former Iron Curtain through military cooperation. Currently, the program includes partnerships signed between 100 US nations and states, under the coordination of the US National Guard Bureau. The program aims to increase the interoperability and response capacity of US and partner forces in order to respond to a large spectrum of security challenges.

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The cooperation with ALNG, within the State Partnership Program, is one of the military instruments of the Romanian-US Strategic Partnership. The soundness of the of cooperation relations with the American military, including on the Romanian Armed Forces - ALNG component, represents one of the three pillars of our country’s foreign and security policy that pursues the national interests of promoting stability in Europe.

The ceremony from the United States of America will be followed by a series of events celebrating the SPP between the Romanian Armed Forces and ALNG that will be organized in our country in June.

Defence Minister’s meeting with the Governor of Alabama State

On April 4, Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvă, had a meeting with the Governor of Alabama State, Kay Ivey, as part of his official visit he pays to the United States of America.

During the meeting, the Romanian official emphasized the symbolic visit which marks three decades since the launching of the State Partnership Program between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard, a platformed which provided for the progressive development of the cooperation between the Romanian and American soldiers.

Minister of National Defence thanked for the significant commitment of the US forces deployed to our country to consolidate the security of the Euro-Atlantic space on the Eastern flank, as a clear proof of the solid Strategic Partnership which binds Romania and USA for more than a quarter of century.

The meetings’ agenda also included discussions on defence cooperation and the implications of the security situation generated by the Russian Federation’s war of aggression in Ukraine on Euro-Atlantic security. The officials emphasized, in the context, the importance of completing the steps taken, at the level of the American administration, in order to develop a Security Strategy for the Black Sea region.

In this respect, the Romanian official reiterated the fact that Romania is today a solid ally of the United States, which demonstrates will and ambition in terms of implementing current and future common priorities for ensuring security, by mentioning our country’s commitment to allocate 2.5% of GDP for defense expenditures, starting 2023.

Defence Minister’s meeting with the Governor of Alabama State



The visit agenda of the minister of national defence to the United States of America also included a series of events jointly conducted with the authorities of Alabama State on the occasion of marking three decades since the signing of the State Partnership Program between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard.

The two speeches given on Tuesday, April 4, by Minister of National Defence in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of Alabama State were also of special significance, on which occasion the minister mentioned, among other things, the important role played by the parliamentary diplomacy within the bilateral relations and thanked for the consistent commitment of the US forces deployed to our country in order to consolidate the security of the Euro-Atlantic space on the Eastern flank.

The visit to Alabama State was, in fact, a good opportunity through which the official conveyed the appreciation of the Romanian party regarding the soundness of the Strategic Partnership, by mentioning that it was time to pay special attention to the economic component, in addition to the defence dimension of the partnership.

The Romanian Defence Minister laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC

On April 1, Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvăr, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC, the solemn event, which was also attended by the Romanian Ambassador to the USA, Andrei Muraru, being part of the program of his official visit paid to the United States of America, which has so far included meetings with the American counterpart Lloyd J. Austin III, senior officials of the National Security Council, members of Congress and representatives of the most relevant think-tanks in the field of security and defence.

The wreath-laying ceremony was a tribute to the American soldiers who fought for freedom and democracy in difficult moments of history, but also in the current missions and operations conducted under the command of the North Atlantic Alliance.



The Romanian Defence Minister laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC

The action from Arlington National Cemetery foreshadowed the marking in Romania, of NATO Day, on April 2. Minister Angel Tîlvăr recalled the supreme sacrifice made by the American and Romanian soldiers who contributed to the shaping of the strongest defensive alliance in history, the guarantor of Euro-Atlantic security and unity.

“Romania has been a member of the most successful military alliance in the world for 19 years, which has proven that it can offer our country the most solid security guarantees in history, especially in the context of an extremely volatile security environment. Perhaps even more relevant is the fact that Romania is not only a beneficiary of this security umbrella, but also an important contributor,” Minister Angel Tîlvăr stated after the ceremony conducted at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Romanian official expressed his gratitude for the women and men in uniform who honorably represent Romania in combat missions and operations in Lithuania, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo or in individual missions conducted in Africa or the Middle East.

Minister of National Defence also sent a message on the occasion of the celebration of NATO Day in Romania, which can be accessed at the following address: https://www.mapn.ro/cpresa/17868_mesajul-ministrului-apararii-nationale-cu-prilejul-sarbatoririi-zilei-nato-in-romania.

Defence Minister's meetings with representatives of the American Institutes for Security and Defence Research and Analysis

As part of his official visit to the United States of America, Minister Angel Tîlvăr had a series of meetings on March 31, with representatives of famous American Institutes for Security and Defence Research and Analysis, such as the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), the Heritage Foundation, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and the Atlantic Council.

The meeting with CEPA representatives also included a round table with representatives of the research community from Washington DC, considering the focus of the academic environment on the security situation at the Black Sea. Also, the officials approached the status and outlook of the Ukraine war, the way NATO has responded in support of Ukraine, lessons learned and ways to increase Allied support for Ukraine. Also, the decisions of the Madrid NATO Summit, namely the measures of strengthening defence and deterrence on NATO's Eastern flank and their implementation in the perspective of the upcoming Vilnius NATO Summit were also brought to attention.

The Romanian official reiterated the importance of maintaining Allied solidarity and implementing all decisions taken by the Allied leaders on the occasion of the Madrid Summit, the strengthening of NATO's deterrence and defence posture at the Black Sea being equally highlighted by the importance

of the decisions aiming at providing concrete support to the partners in the region (Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia) in the perspective of the upcoming Vilnius Summit.

During the discussions with the representatives of the Heritage Foundation and with those of the CSIS and the Atlantic Council, the officials emphasized the symbolic moment of the visit that marks 30 years since the signing of the State Partnership Program between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard and the importance of the Strategic Partnership for the modernization of the Romanian Armed Forces.

The security situation generated by the aggression war launched by the Russian Federation in Ukraine and the impact on the Euro-Atlantic security were also on the discussion agenda, the officials pointing out the importance of the development of a US Strategy at the Black Sea. In this context, CSIS experts presented to the MoND delegation the conclusions of the study "The Inhospitable Sea: Toward a New US Strategy for the Black Sea Region" to the MoND delegation.

Defence Minister's meetings with representatives of the National Security Council and the US Air Force's Staff

As part of his visit to the United States of America, Minister of National Defense, Angel Tîlvăr, had, on March 30, in Washington DC, a meeting with the coordinator for Defense Policy and Arms Control within the National Security Council, Cara Abercrombie and, on Friday, March 31, with the Assistant Secretary of the US Air Force, Kristyn Jones.

In the discussions at the National Security Council, the officials addressed topics of common interest regarding the importance of the Romania-US Strategic Partnership, the regional security situation and the need for a Black Sea Strategy, as well as Romania's efforts regarding the multidimensional support provided to Ukraine.

Minister Tîlvăr welcomed the celebration of 30 years since the signing of the State Partnership Program between the Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard and reiterated the excellent relations within the Romanian-American Strategic Partnership in the field of defence.

Defence Minister's meetings with representatives of the American Institutes for Security and Defence Research and Analysis



During the discussions regarding the support provided to Ukraine, Minister of National Defence highlighted Romania's multi-dimensional efforts in support of Ukraine and our country's commitment to continue this effort as long as necessary.

Regarding the regional security situation and the increase of cooperation in the Black Sea region, the Romanian official thanked the United States for the consistent contribution with forces and capabilities deployed on the Eastern flank of the Alliance, including in Romania, as a proof of the United States' commitment to consolidating the Allied deterrence and defence posture on the Eastern flank.

During the meeting with the Assistant Secretary of the US Air Force, the topics approached were the importance of security in the Black Sea region and the presence of US forces in Romania, the increase of bilateral cooperation with a view of developing the air force's capabilities as well as topics related to the upcoming Vilnius NATO Summit.

Minister of National Defence emphasized the benefits of the Strategic Partnership on the defense dimension and the excellent relationship between the Romanian Armed Forces and the Alabama National Guard within the State Partnership Program.

In this context, he thanked for the additional contribution with forces and capabilities deployed by the United States to Romania, in the context of the Allied and the Washington Administration decisions regarding the consolidation of the deterrence and defence posture on the Eastern flank, against the background of the Ukraine war. The Romanian official reiterated the determination of the Romanian side regarding the support provided to the US forces deployed to our country.

With reference to the increase of bilateral cooperation for the development of the Romanian Air Force's capabilities, the Minister of National Defence mentioned that Romania's decision to allocate 2.5% of GDP for defence expenditures will allow the continuation of efforts made to modernize the Romanian Armed Forces' capabilities and the Romanian Air Force's on-going procurement programs.

In the perspective of the Vilnius NATO Summit, the Romanian official mentioned the relevance that the security situation in the Black Sea region must occupy on the discussion agenda, the importance of making concrete decisions to continue providing support to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and the implementation of the decisions made at the Madrid NATO Summit

Talks on Romania's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program

On March 30, Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvăr, discussed, during the meetings held within the US Congress, about the importance of Romania's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program.

Angel Tîlvăr expressed his appreciation for the progress made at the level of the American legislature in order to include Romania in the Visa Waiver Program, by assuring that the Government of Romania will work closely with the US authorities to achieve this goal in the shortest possible time.

"Considering the excellent framework of cooperation between our countries, ensured, on multiple levels, by the Strategic Partnership, the inclusion of Romania - in the shortest possible time - in the Visa Waiver program will contribute to the increase of the collaboration level between our countries", minister Tîlvăr stated.

In this context, the Romanian minister mentioned the very good results of the eighth Meeting of the Strategic Dialogue between Romania and the United States of America, which took place in Bucharest, in March, whose final statement specifies that: "Romania and The United States stay committed to working together to support Romania's efforts in meeting the criteria established by law for Romania's admission to the Visa Waiver program."

On March 15, American senators Richard Durbin and Jeanne Shaheen introduced, in the Congress, a bill recommending the inclusion of Romania in the Visa Waiver Program. Entitled "Romania Visa Waiver Act of 2023", the draft law represents an important legislative step that marks the support of the American Senate in the context of Romania's efforts of becoming a member state of this program.

You can find more information about this project at: <https://washington.mae.ro/local-news/2444>

Defence Minister's meeting with the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee of the US Congress

As part of his official visit to the United States of America, Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvăr, scheduled meetings on March 30, at the Capitol, with the Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Jack Reed and the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Mike Rogers.

The working agenda included discussions on the security situation at the Black Sea and the support provided to Ukraine, in the context of the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, the perspective of bilateral cooperation and consolidation of the US forces' posture on the Eastern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance, as well as the efforts to modernize and develop the infrastructure in Romania, aligned with the cooperation programs with the USA, considering the national commitments in accordance with the defence allocated budget.

The Romanian official welcomed the completion of three decades since the launching of the "State Partnership Program", a platform that ensured the progressive increase of cooperation between the Romanian soldiers and those of the Alabama National Guard.

He thanked Chairman Mike Rogers, Congressman from the Alabama State, for his visit paid to Bucharest, at the beginning of February and highlighted the perspective of increasing cooperation between the Romanian defense industry in Romania with the one from the Alabama State.

Angel Tîlvăr conveyed to the presidents of the two committees that Romania remains a reliable ally of the United States and thanked for the consistent commitment of the US forces deployed to our country, with a view of strengthening the security of the Euro-Atlantic space on the Eastern flank, as a clear proof of the solid Romanian-American Strategic Partnership.

He also appreciated the efforts of the US administration for the development of a US Security Strategy at the Black Sea, by pointing out the importance of the validation, by Congress, of the legislative proposal in this regard.

At the same time, he mentioned the importance that Romania attaches to complying with commitments on the level of fair burden sharing of responsibilities within NATO, by allocating 2.5% of GDP for defense expenditures starting from 2023, of which a significant percentage is intended for major equipment purchase and research and development activities.

Defence Minister's meeting with the US Secretary of Defense

Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvăr, had a meeting with the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, on April 30, in the context of his official visit paid to the United States of America.

His visit to the USA restates the excellent defence cooperation relations within the US-Romanian Strategic Partnership



Defence Minister's meeting with the US Secretary of Defense

and provides an opportunity for the discussion of the main common topics of interest. The discussion agenda of the two officials focused on topics related to the evolution of the regional security situation in the context of the Russian Federation's aggression war in Ukraine, with emphasis on concrete ways of enhancing bilateral military cooperation and the cooperation in the Black Sea, the continuous presence of the US forces in Romania and the Black Sea region, respectively on the contribution to the Allied deterrence and defence posture on the Eastern flank.

During the talks, the Romanian dignitary pointed out the excellent relations in the field of defence, within the extended framework of the US-Romanian Strategic Partnership.

"My visit to the United States comes at a symbolic moment, as we celebrate 30 years of Partnership with Alabama State, an important milestone for the development of an excellent Strategic Partnership relationship. Along with strengthening Romania's profile within the North-Atlantic Alliance and the European Union, the enhancement of the Strategic Partnership with the USA represents an important component of our country's foreign and security policy", minister Tîlvăr stated at the beginning of the meeting.

Minister of National Defence pointed out Romania's efforts in support of Ukraine, along the ones made by the community of the democratic states.

“I commend the outstanding results achieved at the level of support for Ukraine under the leadership of US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, within the Ukraine Defence Contact Group. Romania, in its capacity as an EU and NATO member state, has provided multidimensional support to Ukraine and will continue to do so as long as necessary”, the Romanian official added.

The Romanian official also referred to the regional security situation and the enhancement of cooperation, appreciating that a Black Sea strategy is needed, as well as a consolidation of the Allied presence in this region and, implicitly, in Romania. In this context, he thanked the United States for the consistent contribution with forces and capabilities deployed on the Eastern flank of the Alliance, including in Romania.

“We believe there is an urgent need for a comprehensive, multi-domain US-led strategy at the Black Sea, by involving key actors in the region. This will create a more robust policy built around US and NATO consistent and persistent presence as well as an active US leadership in the region. The US forces’ robust presence in Romania, augmented last year by the 2nd Infantry Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, is another proof of solidarity of what the United States’ commitment to Black Sea security means”, the defence minister stated.

In the light of the upcoming Vilnius NATO Summit from July 2023, the Romanian official mentioned the need to imple-

ment the decisions adopted last year, during the Madrid NATO Summit, make consistent decisions regarding the Black Sea security, as well as identify some substantial measures in support of Ukraine and the partners from the region, such as the Republic of Moldova.

“Today, Romania is a solid, reliable ally, a state that demonstrates ambition, political will, as well as the ability to concretely and credibly contribute to the implementation of the common future priorities, including by firmly assuming the security provider role in the Black Sea region”, minister Angel Tîlvă stated.

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The visit of the Romanian official marks the celebration of 30 years since the signing of the partnership between the Romanian Armed Forces and the Alabama National Guard. In this context, the Minister of National Defence will have a series of meetings in Washington DC and in Alabama State with US officials of the Department of Defense, National Security Council, the Governor of Alabama State and members of the Congress, as well as with representatives of some renowned research and analysis institutes in the field of security studies. The minister will also participate in events organized to mark 30 years of partnership with the Alabama National Guard, in Montgomery.

