

**March 17th, 2016****Issue no. 3**

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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Working Visit at Fetești and Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Bases

Special points of interests:

- Working Visit at Fetești and Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Bases
- Opening Ceremony of the Romanian-Canadian Exercise at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base
- New consultations on the strategic priorities of the Ministry of National Defence
- The Defence Minister Visited the NATO Force Integration Unit and the Multinational Division South-East
- Romanian-American Talks
- The Day of the Department for Parliament Liaison and Public Information
- The Chief of General Staff Makes a Visit in Poland
- Special Operations Troops Deployed to Afghanistan



The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, visiting
Mihail Kogălniceanu Military Base

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, and the chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, made an information and documentation visit at Fetești and Mihail Kogălniceanu Military Bases, Monday, March 14.

While at Mihail Kogălniceanu Aerodrome, minister Motoc was briefed on the base and aerodrome functions, discussed with Romanian and American officers, as well as the Canadian ones, who are presently participating in a training exercise.

„I am highly satisfied with the cooperation between the Romanian and American soldiers. What I saw here today is not just a modern transit

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hub, that makes the most of the air, harbour, road and railway facilities in the area, but an efficient center for training troops in dealing with the risks of the present security environment” Mihnea Motoc said.

While at Fetești, minister Motoc met with troops of the 86th Air Base, when they discussed about the missions they carried out, especially the Air Police ones and he reviewed the operational capabilities and infrastructure works needed for operating the F-16 aircraft.

„I appreciate the dedication of the military pilots and the support staff in carrying out missions that ensure the security of the air space in the South-Eastern area of the Alliance. As to the preparations to introduce the F-16 multirole aircraft, I saw that many of the infrastructure projects necessary for its operation are already in place and I saw the military personnel concerned with ending this process according to the deadlines agreed upon” the defence minister concluded.

Opening Ceremony of the Romanian-Canadian Exercise at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base

The opening ceremony of the Romanian-Canadian Exercise conducted at the Military Air Base in Mihail Kogălniceanu, Constanța County, took place on Monday, March 7, in the presence of the chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, the Ambassador of Canada to Bucharest, Ms. Joanne Lemay, and the commander of the Canadian 1st Division, Major General Dean Milner.

General Ciucă wished the participants in the exercise good luck and highlighted the importance of the cooperation between the military of Romania and Canada at the level of all three military services.

“The training activities planned for this year will focus on rehearsing joint procedures in the training facilities we have at our disposal, while maintaining a constant presence of NATO troops at the South-Eastern border of the Alliance”, the chief of General Staff said.

General Nicolae Ciucă emphasized that about 120 multinational exercises are planned for this year, both at home and abroad, and thanked NATO and partner armed forces for the decision to participate in the exercises conducted in Romania. “I congratulate our troops for their dedication and professionalism in preparing these missions”, the chief of General Staff said.



Romanian and Canadian troops

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About 200 troops of the Romanian Air Force and MiG-21 LanceR aircraft and IAR-330 Puma helicopters will conduct specific training sessions along a detachment of about 100 soldiers and four CF-18 Hornet aircraft of the Canadian Royal Air Force over March 1 to April 10.

New consultations on the strategic priorities of the Ministry of National Defence

The second meeting with the representatives of the Parliament, Defence, Public Order and National Security System, experts from defence and security field, and members of the association of the reserve military personnel on the implementation status and perspectives of the compelling project entitled “The alignment of the armed force structure and human resources management to NATO’s best practices and to the consequences generated by the new security environment” took place on Monday, March 7th, at the institution headquarters, in the presence of the Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc.

Minister Motoc talked on the status of the three components of the package, the gradual transition to the Defence Staff conception, harmonisations and optimizations of the management system applied to the military personnel categories and the increase of predictability and mobility throughout the military career stages.

Thus, during the meeting, the stage of the discussions on the implications brought about when transitioning from a General Staff to a Defence Staff –concept applied in the Euro-Atlantic space-that would assure a better functioning of the military in accordance with the institution requirements and needs was presented.

“We are taking into consideration that the Defence Staff be headed by a Chief of Defence, who will have full command over the Romanian Military force structure, will be the main advisor to the President of Romania, the Prime Minister and to the Minister of National Defence”, added Mihnea Motoc.

Also, other important topics for the Romanian Armed Forces were discussed during the meeting, such as changes to the military personnel status and to the military career guide in order to implement a dynamic and predictable military career system, which will generate higher mobility and professional performance.

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The Defence Minister Visited the NATO Force Integration Unit and the Multinational Division South-East

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, and the chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, visited the NATO Force Integration Unit and the Multinational Division South – East, on Friday, March 4.

Minister Motoc talked to Romanian and allied personnel, praised the efforts made so far and asked everybody to keep up working hard towards rendering operational their structures.

“The establishment of the two command and control NATO structures and the significantly larger number of exercises hosted and organized by Romania prove that the Romanian Armed Forces are capable of adapting to the new security challenges of the region”, the defence minister said.

The Romanian dignitary stated that rendering operational the two NATO command structures is a major goal of the defence ministry and assured the staff of his entire support.

Establishing these command structures on Romanian territory is part of the steps NATO made in response to improving the security situation in the region and aims at enhancing the capacity of the Alliance to respond in a specific and decisive way to any hostile actions against any member state.



The Minister of National Defence and the chief of General Staff visit the
Multinational Division South – East

Romanian-American Talks

The 4th session of bilateral talks on the military component of the Romanian-American Strategic Partnership was held at EUCOM, Stuttgart, Germany, on Tuesday, March 1st.

The Romanian delegation consisted of the chief of the Department for Defence Policy and Planning and the chief of the General Staff.

The American delegation was represented by Rear Admiral John Smith, Chief of Staff U.S. European Command, Lieutenant General William Garrett, Deputy Commander, U.S. European Command and Major General David Allvin, Director of Strategy and Policy for U.S. European Command.

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The delegations discussed the importance of enhancing the Romanian-American Strategic Partnership in terms of security, by implementing the specific provisions of the two bilateral agreements on defence cooperation and the defence against ballistic missiles, conducting common military exercises and implementing the Readiness Action Plan/RAP.

The topics under discussion were related to both bilateral cooperation and cooperation of the two countries within NATO, as well as the security situation in the South-Eastern area of the Alliance and in the Black Sea region.

The Day of the Department for Parliament Liaison and Public Information

The Day of the Department for Parliament Liaison and Public Information was celebrated at the Palace of the National Military Club, on Monday, February 29.

State Secretary and chief of the department, Otilia Sava, said that over the 15 years of activity, it contributed significantly to the establishment of the relation with the Parliament, the Government and other authorities. It also contributed to the harmonization of the national legislation with that of NATO and EU, as well as to keeping the public in touch with the achievements of the military through its information and public relations activity. „I want to thank today's and yesterday's personnel of the department, an outstanding human resource, well trained, exact while creative and implicated. It is very important that this military and civilian team is dedicated to the institution”, Otilia Sava said.

„I have to mention the important role you play in improving military personnel welfare, by developing and implementing specific policies and programs. I also wish to highlight the importance of these steps that have a major impact on the military and, at the same time, I want to assure you of my entire support”, Otilia Sava said in her message.

The state secretary also spoke of the importance of the legislative priorities of 2016, consisting of five projects that aim at aligning military structure and human resources management to the best NATO practices and the consequences generated by the new security environment.



Photo coverage of the event

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During the ceremony, members of the department were promoted in rank or awarded distinctions. At the end, the cello group „Violoncellissimo” offered a short recital. Today’s activity was attended by military and civilian personnel that were or still are working here, by war veterans and the Minister Delegate for Parliament Liaison, Ciprian Bucur.

The Chief of General Staff Makes A Visit in Poland

General Nicolae Ciucă, the chief of General Staff, made an official visit in Poland, over February 23 to 25.

The agenda included meetings with the State Secretary and chief of National Security Office, Paweł Soloch, with the deputy Defence Minister Tomasz Szatkowski, with his counterpart, General Mieczysław Gocuł, and visits to several training facilities.

The main topics of discussion included the latest developments of the security situation in the region, preparing the main topics on the agenda of the Warsaw Summit, the stage of the bilateral relations, identifying new fields of cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries and diversifying ways of training in common.

General Ciucă talked of the security situation in the extended Black Sea region and the dynamics of the challenges to the stability and security that can affect the regional balance.

The two officials also discussed the agenda of the multinational exercises that will be conducted in Poland and Romania this year and agreed on the substantial force contributions that mark the commitment of the two countries to get actively involved in improving interoperability in the entire range of military operations, which would help implementing the Readiness Action Plan.

General Ciucă spoke highly of the Polish efforts to organize this year’s NATO Summit, highlighting the importance of augmenting NATO military presence in Eastern Europe.

The cooperation between the Multinational Division Southeast in Bucharest and the Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin, and the two countries’ contributions to these structures represented other topics discussed by the two delegations.



Photo coverage of the visit

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Another topic on the agenda was the cooperation in the framework of the sharing and pooling initiatives of multinational capabilities that translate into the participation of Romania and Poland to several projects within NATO's „Smart Defence” and EU's „Pooling and Sharing” initiatives.

General Ciucă also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Pilsudsky Square in Warsaw. The program included a visit to the Warsaw Uprising Museum as well.

Special Operations Troops Deployed to Afghanistan

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, and the chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, participated in the ceremony organized at the headquarters of the Romanian Special Operations Group in Tîrgu Mureş, on February 19, to mark its deployment to Afghanistan.

For about six months, the Romanian troops will conduct training and counselling missions of Afghan security forces, as part of NATO “Resolute Support” mission.

There are 10 years, in April, this year, since the Romanian Special Operations Forces conduct missions in the theatres of operations in Afghanistan.