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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

“Platinum Eagle 19.1” Multinational Exercise

## Special points of interests:

- “Platinum Eagle 19.1” Multinational Exercise
- Minister Gabriel Leș, on official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Informal Reunion of Athena Special Board, in Bucharest, over 7-8 March 2019
- The USAREUR Representatives arrive in Romania



Opening ceremony of „Platinum Eagle 19.1” training module

On Wednesday, March 13, the opening ceremony of “Platinum Eagle 19.1” training module, part of the “Black Sea Rotational Force 19” Exercise was organized at the Secondary Combat Training Center, Babadag, Tulcea County.

Thus, almost 100 Romanian servicemen and 200 Bulgarian, Georgian, Moldovan, US and Ukrainian troops will conduct joint training activities until March 20, in order to increase the interoperability level.

The Romanian Armed Forces are represented at the “Platinum Eagle 19.1” Exercise by military personnel of 341 Infantry Battalion/9 Mechanized Brigade, Romanian Land Forces, servicemen of 307 Marine Infantry Regiment, Naval Forces and military personnel of 95 Air Base, Air Force.

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Issue no. 3

Pag. 2

“Black Sea Rotational Force” (BSRF) is an annual drill led by US Marine Forces Command deployed in Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF), conducted in the Black Sea and in the Balkans and the Caucasus region. It is meant to increase the level of interoperability by training soldiers jointly for the participation in peacekeeping and counter-insurgency operations.

### **Minister Gabriel Leș, on official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leș, made an official visit to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over 12-13 March, following the invitation of his British counterpart, Gavin Williamson.

The talks with the British counterpart mainly focused on current topics regarding bilateral cooperation in the field of defence as well as on important topics listed on the North-Atlantic Alliance agenda. The officials talked about the common role in ensuring the European security and defence and expressed their conviction that the political-military dialogue between the two countries will continue on the ascending trend.

During the meeting, the two officials will sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Romanian-British cooperation in the field of defence.



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March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Issue no. 3

Pag. 3

## Informal Reunion of Athena Special Board, in Bucharest, over 7-8 March 2019

In accordance with the activity calendar of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of EU, the Ministry of National Defence organized the Informal Reunion of Athena Special Board, in Bucharest, over 7-8 March.

This working group manages the financial aspects of the operations with military implications conducted under the aegis of the CSDP.

The talks focused on aspects related to the review of the financial rules, especially the amendment of the public acquisition procedure. The officials emphasized the lessons learned in the process of funding operations and missions as well as the recommendations resulted following the public procurement audit which indicated the need to review certain provisions of the current financial rules of Athena Mechanism.



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## The USAREUR Representatives arrive in Romania

Soldiers of the United States Army Europe will arrive from Poland, at the end of this month, together with their adjacent equipment, and will be stationed at “Mihail Kogălniceanu” Air Base from Constanța, as part of the arrangement of the USA for ensuring security of NATO’s Eastern flank, within Operation Atlantic Resolve.

The 500 US troops are part of the 1 Battalion, 16 Infantry Regiment, 1 Infantry Division, and operate M1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley IFVs. This year, they will participate in multinational exercises together with soldiers of the Romanian Land Forces.

Moreover, almost 100 servicemen and CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache, UH-60 & HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1 Infantry Division, will arrive at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air



Base. These will participate in joint, multinational and bilateral training sessions together with servicemen of the Romanian Air Force.

Also, 572 Helicopter Squadron, from 57<sup>th</sup> Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base, will ensure the CASEVAC service (Casualty Evacuation) throughout the exercise with a IAR 330 PUMA helicopter equipped and trained for this type of mission. It is worth mentioning that 57<sup>th</sup> Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base will provide part of the personnel that will man the Romanian Air Force detachment which will be made available to the UN, as part of MINUSMA mission, starting October this year.

Over the last period, the 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade deployed military personnel and equipment to Germany, Latvia, Poland and Romania.

The US units will be stationed in Romania for a nine-month period and replaced by other combat units, thus, ensuring a consistent presence in Europe, on a rotational basis.

The deployment taking place in our country will enhance the Romanian-American cooperation in the field of security, ensuring joint training opportunities, which will increase the NATO allies' and partners' capabilities and the interoperability of the Romanian Armed Forces' structures that participate in joint training activities and the response capability in case of crisis situations.

The development of the Romanian- American partnership is a major objective assumed at national level both at political and military levels. In this context, the rotational presence of the US forces on our national territory and in the Black Sea region as well as the support offered by the USA throughout the modernization process of the national defence capabilities play an essential role in the currently security context of our neighborhood.