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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

## NATO Day and Open Gates Day Celebrated at the Ministry of National Defence

### Special points of interests:

- NATO Day and Open Gates Day Celebrated at the Ministry of National Defence
- Chief of General Staff Met with the Commander of NATO Communications and Information Systems (NCISG)
- The Armed Forces – a Different Kind of School
- 45 Years of Military Television
- Minister Mircea Duşa Met with Representatives of the Local Administration and Military Personnel of Timișoara



Hoisting the flag of the  
North Atlantic Alliance

The Day of the North Atlantic Alliance was celebrated with a military ceremony attended by Minister Mircea Duşa, at the defence ministry headquarters, on Sunday, 7 April. On the same occasion, the Day of the Open Gates was organized, for the first time, for the public that had access to the institution for several hours.

„We tried to celebrate, for the first time this year, NATO Day with an Open Gates Day at the Ministry of National Defence. The military is an institution that serves citizens, the Romanian people. It is the institution warranting national security and we would like that people be aware of the military activity and its equipment”, the defence minister declared. Talking of Romania’s NATO joining process, Mircea Duşa

remembered: „In 1994, Romania was the first Eastern nation to sign the Partnership for Peace with NATO (...); a long road followed until Romania’s joining NATO in 2004. During this time, Romania had been a reliable partner of the Alliance; our country participated in theaters of operations of Kosovo, Iraq and later Afghanistan and today, due to this seriousness, we enjoy the benefit of better trained troops and modern equipment. We are thus part of the most serious political and military organization in the world, which also guarantees our national security”.

The people of Bucharest visited the stands of the Military Media Trust, of the Military Sports Group „STEAUA”, of the Military Library, the History Museum and the ministry building.

On NATO Day, the defence ministry leadership organized a videoconference with the Romanian troops in Afghanistan. At the same time, NATO Day was celebrated in the main garrisons in the country.

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## Chief of General Staff Met with the Commander of NATO Communications and Information Systems (NCISG)



The two officials during the meeting

The chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă received Major General Thomas Franz, Commander of NATO Communications and Information Systems (NCISG), at the Ministry of National Defence on Wednesday, 27 March. During the meeting, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă pointed out that the General Staff (SMG) is perfectly able to provide communication and information services to the Alliance, through the national military system, and that all necessary premises exist so that a Memorandum of Understanding could be signed by the Ministry of National

Defence and the Allied Command for Operations. The document would represent the legal frame necessary for the use of the military communications system in extending similar NATO service networks.

The NCISG commander had working meetings with the deputy chief of General Staff for operations and training, Lieutenant General Valeriu Nicuț, with other specialists in the communications and information field.

Major General Thomas Franz visited the 48<sup>th</sup> Center for Strategic Communications and Information in Otopeni, which ensured the communications and information support of the ISAF Command Post deployed to Kabul from January to August 2012.

## The Armed Forces – a Different Kind of School



Pupils of „George Călinescu” school learning of the monuments of the heroes who fell on the battle field

The Ministry of National Defence supported the project **The Armed Forces – A Different Kind of School** conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education.

Units of all military services and education or cultural institutions in the country participated, last week, in the program that showed pupils military equipment and technology, specific practical activities and the opportunities offered by the military education system.

175 highschool students of Bucharest volunteered for the activities organized by the troops of the 96<sup>th</sup> Enginer Battalion and the 2<sup>nd</sup> „Călugăreni” Battalion that had carried out several missions in theaters of operations.



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The highschool students found out what a usual training day of a military man looks like, they conducted drills such as launching grenades, front instruction, finding metal objects with the help of detectors and they were told about the equipment and armament used by the troops. The personnel of the 90<sup>th</sup> Airlift Flotilla briefed the young students of Bucharest and Otopeni on the IAR-330 PUMA, AN-26, C-130 HERCULES and C-27J SPARTAN aircraft they have in use as well as aspects of a pilot's life.

The national office for heroes' memory in the capital city conducted project „One hero, one flower”. According to it, pupils from several schools laid wreaths and took care of the heroes' monuments in the Soviet Military Cemetery, the Cemetery of WW1 Heroes and Pro Patria Cemetery.

The National Military Museum, „Regele Ferdinand”, and the National Aviation Museum opened their gates for children.

## 45 Years of Military Television



The activity at the Palace of the National Military Club

The celebration of 45 years since the establishment of the Editorial Office of the Military Television took place at the Palace of the National Military Club, on Friday 29 March.

All the important moments in the history of Pro Patria were reviewed and a retrospective film was presented, illustrating the transformation of the editorial office of military TV shows along its 45 years of activity.

„I know that what you, military journalists, do is not something that anybody could do. You have to be always present where you are needed, in order to show the audience everything we need to show

them. I want to assure you of the entire support of the defence ministry leadership”, State Secretary Vasile Costea said.

The chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă, thanked the participants in the activity for the accuracy of the information on the Romanian military they present. „You will always have an ally in me, a supporter of all your endeavors”, Lieutenant General, Ștefan Dănilă reassured all the members of the Editorial Office of the Military Television.

The first military TV show was broadcast on 30 March 1968, under the title „De strajă Patriei” and was included among the shows of the Romanian Television, a week before the troops of the Warsaw Pact invaded Czechoslovakia.

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### Minister Mircea Duşa Met with Representatives of the Local Administration and Military Personnel of Timișoara



Defence minister's press declaration at the end of the visit to  
„Dr. Victor Popescu“ Emergency Military Hospital of Timișoara

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, went to Timișoara, on Thursday, 21 March, to meet with representatives of the local administration, the 18th „Banat” Infantry Brigade and the Military Emergency Hospital „Dr. Victor Popescu”.

„The hospital is now undergoing a full modernization process and the 2013 defence budget includes the money necessary to take it further. Fortunately, compared to last year, in this year's budget the funds for capital expenditures were doubled. I will continue to allot funds for the procurement of new equipment meant to ensure the proper operation of the hospital. I talked to patients and I wish to thank the staff for the great job they are doing”, the defence minister said.

Also today, the Minister of National Defence met with Brigadier General Gheorghe Simina, commander of the 18th „Banat” Infantry Brigade to be briefed on the activity of the almost 1,000 troops deployed to Afghanistan, for NATO's operation of security assistance. During the talks, minister Duşa pointed out that the ministry leadership is deeply involved in finding solutions to the problems troops are facing in theaters of operations in terms of equipment.