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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Minister Mircea Duşa Meets His Counterpart
from the Republic of Moldova**

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Minister Mircea Duşa and his counterpart, Mr. Viorel Cibotaru

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with his counterpart from the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Viorel Cibotaru, at the defence ministry, on Tuesday, May 19. The Moldavian defence minister made an official visit in Romania over May 19 and 20.

„Today's meeting takes the political and military dialogue of our countries to a higher level, being a good opportunity to share opinions on the stage and perspective of bilateral military cooperation and multilateral cooperation”, Minister Duşa said.

Mircea Duşa spoke of the common training activities of the two armed forces saluting the presence of the Infantry, Artillery and CBRN defence units from the Republic of Moldova at the training exercises for conventional operations, saying he hoped such cooperation would continue.

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„I consider we could put the experience gained by the Romanian military during multinational exercises and missions to best use at bilateral level, so that we could employ the same procedures during peacekeeping missions”, the defence minister said.

Minister Duşa emphasized our endorsement for the technical and material assistance offered for the consolidation of the defence capability of the Republic of Moldova, as provided by the Initiative to Consolidate Defence Capabilities, and the counseling on the methodology of drafting the legal papers that are specific for logistics.

The two officials talked of the participation of the Republic of Moldova in the regional initiatives, its becoming a full member of the SEDM process as well as the finding solutions to facilitate the involvement of the Republic of Moldova in EU-led missions.

The agenda of Minister Viorel Cibotaru includes also visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Chamber, „Carol I” National Defence University and the Military Technical Academy.

Minister Mircea Duşa, at the Meetings in Brussels

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, attended the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) and the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board in Brussels, on Monday, May 18.

According to the defence minister, the meetings in Brussels represented „important opportunities” in identifying the defence-related priorities the European Union member states share.

„The decisions adopted will contribute to the preparation of the

European Council meeting on security and defence at the level of heads of state and government scheduled for late-June, aiming at consolidating the Union as a credible player in terms of international security”, Mircea Duşa pointed out.

The Romanian defence minister stated that allied cooperation for the development of military capabilities is even more important in the present security context. „Defence-related cooperation should be based on



The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, at the meeting of the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency

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the convergence of the planning processes and the information exchange, as well as on the employment of NATO standards, procedures and regulations as much as possible,” Mircea Duşa said.

During the meeting of the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency (EDA), the Romanian Defence Minister saluted the activity of the EDA, which „made efforts to facilitate the cooperation among member states, an aspect which, Romania considers, needs an increased attention on the part of European leaders”. The minister said he endorses the implementation of the measures meant to support the small and medium-sized enterprises and the identification of the tools needed to encourage and facilitate their access to military markets.

During the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on military operations and missions conducted under the aegis of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, Minister Duşa stated Romania’s position concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also emphasized the importance of consolidating EU’s political efforts and operational actions until the country reaches a level of stability that could be considered irreversible.

The minister of national defence also voiced Romania’s endorsement of EU’s operations and missions in Africa, mainly the efforts to consolidate security in the Horn of Africa and the Central African Republic, as well as for the stabilization of the situation in Mali and Sahel region. At the same time, Minister Mircea Duşa spoke of the importance of initiating a strategic review process of the EU, aimed at drawing up a new European Security Strategy that should reflect the new geopolitical realities.

Cavalry March: U.S. Soldiers Cover the Road from Mihail Kogălniceanu to Cincu

About 400 U.S. troopers assigned to the 2nd Squadron, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment with over 80 technical means participated in the Cavalry March that should cover the distance from Mihail Kogălniceanu (Constanța) to Cincu (Braşov), over May 13 and 14.

“This event demonstrated our strong relationship with Romania and our ability to move freely along interior lines across



Welcome ceremony in Braşov for the Romanian and U.S. troopers participating in the Cavalry March

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the NATO Alliance”, said the representatives of 2nd Cavalry Regiment that participated in exercise „Sarmis 15”, conducted in Cincu.

“This was also a combined effort to show interoperability and we deferred to the Romanian Armed Forces on all coordination and emerging issues.”

While crossing Ploiești, Sinaia and Brașov, the US soldiers alongside their partners from the Romanian Land Forces participated in public events under the motto „respect for the past, hope for the future”.

The military vehicles involved in Marșul Cavaleriei/Cavalry March travelled in groups lest they produce traffic jams. They travelled from Mihail Kogalniceanu through Hârșova, Slobozia, Ploiești, Sinaia and Brașov, on their way to Cincu. On the itinerary they covered there were temporary traffic restrictions, which people were asked to observe.

On Wednesday, May 13, the Shopping City Mall of Ploiești hosted, from 15.30 to 19.00 hrs., a welcome ceremony. The public was invited to participate and interact with the soldiers participating in the march. Decathlon sports base hosted a football game between the American soldiers and the ones of the 2nd Valahia Logistic Base from Ploiești and a basketball game with pupils of Dimitrie Cantemir National Military College from Breaza.

In Sinaia, from 10.00 to 11.30, on Thursday, May 14, American and Romanian soldiers paid a tribute to the memory of the American pilots who fell during WWII. There was also a wreath-laying ceremony at the Heroes’ Monument in Vulturii Libertății Square. People were invited to attend.

Also on Thursday, from 15.00 to 18.00, the public in Brașov was invited to attend the welcome ceremony organized at the George Barițiu County Library. Participants had the opportunity to see the American and Romanian vehicles and to learn about the possibilities of following a military career.

Interested parties were also able to follow the events online, as they are posted, under the hash tags, „CavalryMarch” and „MarsulCavaleriei”.

* * *

Some 1,500 troops from Canada, Great Britain, Romania and the USA, along about 200 combat means participated over May 15 to June 6, in the multinational exercise with real live simulation and live firing „Sarmis 15” conducted in Brașov garrison and at the Land Forces Training Center in Cincu.

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Lieutenant General Marshall Webb's Visit in Romania

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, received Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb, NATO Special Operations Headquarters commander, at the defence ministry HQ, Thursday, May 7.

Minister Mircea Duşa emphasized the very good cooperation of the Romanian special operations forces and the similar structures of NATO, both during exercises and in missions in theaters of operations.



The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, and Lt. Gen. Marshall B. Webb, NATO Special Operations Headquarters commander

„Special Operations and Intelligence Forces are elite troops of the Romanian Armed Forces and we appreciate the support we got in training them. The missions carried out by these military structures are appreciated at home and abroad”, the defence minister said. General Webb spoke of the excellent cooperation with the Special Operations Forces, saying that Romania is a regional leader in the field.

General Webb made an official visit in Romania in order to participate in a planning exercise in the field of special operations.

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Commander, Allied Joint Forces Command Naples Visits Romania

The Minister of National Defence Mircea Duşa met on Tuesday, May 5, with Admiral Mark Ferguson, Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command Naples, who made a visit in Romania over May 5 and 6, at the invitation of the chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Nicolae Ciucă.

The agenda included discussions on implementing the goals set at NATO Summit in Wales, especially the Action Plan to increase the operational

capabilities of the Alliance, the stage of rendering operational the NATO Force Integration Unit and the Multi-National Division South-East Command.

There were talks on the allied assurance measures as well, on the developments in the extended Black Sea security region and on the participation of Romanian troops in „Resolute Support” mission in Afghanistan.



Welcome ceremony

Activities Dedicated to the War Veterans' Day

The Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized, in all large garrisons of the country, special events dedicated to the War Veterans' Day, celebrated on April 29, marking 70 years since the end of WW II.

On Tuesday, April 28, a show was presented in „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Hall of the defence ministry, in cooperation with the Romanian Radio and Television Society. Defence minister Mircea Duşa was present at the show which was dedicated to veterans, wounded soldiers, invalids and families of soldiers who died during WWII but also to the military and civilian personnel of the defence ministry.

Among the artists performing in the show were Felicia Filip, Sava Negrean Brudaşcu, Veta Biriş, Grigore Leşe, Gheorghe Roşoga, Margareta Clipa, Ovidiu Purdea Someş, Oana Matei, Maria Guzu, the Men Choir

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of Libotin, Călușari Ensemble „Romanați” from Caracal, the Music Band of the defence ministry and the Folk Music Band of the Radio.

On Wednesday, April 29, from 07.30, the Veterans' Marathon took place in Bucharest, whereas from 08.30 hrs., at the Monument of Homeland Heroes, in front of „Carol I” National Defence University, a military and religious, wreath-laying ceremony was organized.

From 10.30, at the Palace of the National Military Club, a Solemn Gathering was organized for war veterans and families of the soldiers who died in WW II as well as exhibitions with military equipment of soldiers who fought in WW II.

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By Government Decision No. 164/2015, 2015 was declared “The Year of War Veterans” whereas the Day of War Veterans was established by Government Decision No. 1222/2007 to be celebrated annually on April 29.

In all garrisons across the country, military and religious wreath-laying ceremonies at the monuments dedicated to WW II heroes were organized, as well as solemn gatherings of the war veterans, shows, military theme exhibitions, tending heroes' monuments and cemeteries.

In the aftermath of WWII, there were over 900,000 dead, wounded, missing, prisoners, injured and invalids (about 92,000 dead soldiers) in Romania. At present, there are still about 20,000 war veterans living, 760 war widows and about 102,000 war veterans' widows.



Medal dedicated to the War Veterans' Day