

**October 24th, 2016****Issue no. 6**

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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**The Conference of NATO Strategic Military Partner
Hosted by Romania**

Special points of interests:

- The Conference of NATO Strategic Military Partner Hosted by Romania
- Minister Mihnea Motoc at the South-East Europe Defence Ministerial
- The Chief of General Staff participated in the Conference for Combating Terrorism in the Chiefs of Defence Format
- The First F-16 Fighting Falcon Aircraft to Officially Equip the Romanian Air Force
- Meeting of Minister Mihnea Motoc with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini
- Romanian team at "Invictus Games Toronto 2017"



The conference of the Strategic Military Partner

The conference of the Strategic Military Partner organized by the Allied Command Transformation (ACT) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was hosted by Romania, at Radisson Blu Hotel, over 19 to 21 October. About 70 NATO member states and partners, as well as other countries were represented at the event. Columbia and Nigeria attended for the first time the consultations in this format. The main topic of the discussions was the prospects of extending the partnerships with the Alliance.

"The creation and maintenance of strong bonds with countries outside NATO is paramount for the Alliance. That is why ensuring some durable partnerships will be always of great strategic importance", said the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, General Denis Mercier.

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**Minister Mihnea Motoc at the South-East Europe
Defence Ministerial**

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, participated in the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM), hosted by Italy, in Rome, on Tuesday, October 18. This year's event marked the 20th anniversary of the SEDM Process, a regional initiative that contributed along this entire period maintaining peace and confidence, as well as strengthening good neighborly relations and close cooperation among the states in South-Eastern Europe.



The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc,
at the South-East Europe Defence Ministerial

The activity brought together SEDM member states, the defence minister of the Republic of Moldova that has observer status, as well as representatives of some regional security organizations, such as the Centre for Security Cooperation – RACVIAC-SE Europe and the Centre for Regional Cooperation – RCC.

During his speeches, Minister Motoc stressed Romania's determination to play an active role in SEDM and to contribute to all ongoing projects. In this respect, the Romanian minister proposed that SEEBRIG join the Multinational Division South-East (MND-SE), with a view to training personnel and involve SEEBRIG Command into common exercises with MND-SE, conducted NATO standards.

Mihnea Motoc confirmed initiating the process of selection for the future Romanian SEEBRIG commander over 2017 to 2020 when Romania will hold this position and stated our country's willingness to host SEEBRIG Command in accordance with the MPFSEE Agreement, reiterating Romania's commitment to continue developing the program „Female Leaders in Security and Defence”, in its capacity as leading nation till the end of 2017.

The Minister of National Defence had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from: Italy, Roberta Pinotti, Turkey, Fikri Isik, and the Republic of Moldova, Anatol Şalaru. During the talks they discussed the

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stage of the relations with the respective countries and other topics of mutual interest on the NATO and EU agenda.

Also, in the spirit of the South-East Europe Defence Ministerial, Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc met with the Chairman of SEDM Steering Committee Ambassador Hüseyin Müftüoğlu, on Friday, October 14.

The meeting took place at the time when Romania hosted the 2016 edition of exercise „South-Eastern Europe Simulation (SEESIM)”, conducted over October 10 to 14 in the attendance of SEDM-CC Chairman.

The discussions focused on the importance of SEDM as a platform of political and military dialogue among the states of South-East Europe and on the progress of the cooperation projects conducted under the aegis of this regional initiative. They also discussed the topics of the future SEDM reunion that took place in Rome, over October 17-18, 2016.

Minister Mihnea Motoc emphasized Romania's endorsement of the project to review SEDM strategically and to consolidate the initiative as the main format of regional cooperation on defence. Also, it was pointed out the active participation of Romania to all ongoing SEDM projects and the support for their continued development in order to adapt to the dynamics of the regional security environment.

The benefits of participating in SEEBRIG were also discussed, as part of the intended increase of the interoperability with NATO forces, also with a view to SEEBRIG joining the Multinational Division South-East.

The Chief of General Staff participated in the Conference for Combating Terrorism in the Chiefs of Defence Format

General Nicolae Ciucă, the Chief of General Staff, participated on October 17, in Washington, in the Conference for Combating terrorism in the Chiefs of Defence format, following the invitation of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs Committee of the US Armed Forces, General Joseph F. Dunford Jr.

The status and prospects of the campaign against DAESH terrorist threats, the Romanian Armed Forces' participation in international combating terrorism missions and operations, as well as the evolution and the modernization of the Romanian military are some of the topics listed on the reunion agenda.

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The First F-16 Fighting Falcon Aircraft to Officially Equip the Romanian Air Force

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc and his Portuguese counterpart, José Alberto de Azeredo Lopes, had a series of official talks at the Palace of the National Military Club, on Friday, October 7.

The meeting of the two ministers took place during the participation of the Portuguese delegation at the ceremony organized at the 86th "Locotenent aviator Gheorghe Mociorniță" Air Base upon rendering operational the first six F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Following the talks in Portugal, the two ministers analyzed the areas where bilateral military cooperation can be taken further with a view to maximizing the potential created with the successful F-16 program. Based on this, they discussed new possible ways of cooperation, such as research on military equipment and technologies and cyber defence.

Minister Motoc emphasized once more that the F-16 program should lead to an extension of bilateral relations, especially in the economic field. At the same time, he said that for our countries, as frontier states of both NATO and the EU, such instances as Monte Real and Fetești should result in a sustained implementation of both the decisions of NATO Summit in Warsaw and the EU Global Strategy. They agreed that the two countries should coordinate their positions along the main lines of NATO and EU agendas, that could also result in some reflection documents as established at bilateral level.

They took again into discussion the request to involve the Portuguese part in implementing the Romanian initiative regarding the allied forward position on its national territory, at all the three military services. Minister Azeredo Lopes said the Portuguese authorities were open to the idea and stated Lisbon's intention to be involved at allied level and to contribute in a specific way to consolidating the deterrence and defence posture of NATO.



Minister Mihnea Motoc addressing the audience

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Meeting of Minister Mihnea Motoc with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, had a meeting with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, in Bucharest, on Friday, October 7.

The two officials approached aspects related to security in the eastern and southern proximity of the EU, especially in the extended Black Sea region, and the Common Security and Defence Policy, with focus on implementing the EU Global Strategy of foreign policy and security.

They noted the progress made in implementing the Global Strategy, when the High Representative Federica Mogherini mentioned that a process was launched to identify the key-elements meant to be agreed upon by all EU member states, namely: defining the EU level of ambition and concrete propositions for their accomplishment, consolidating the development of the respective necessary capabilities and maximizing defence cooperation and with the Union partners.

The two officials talked of EU-NATO cooperation and the importance of the synergic implementation of the Global Strategy and NATO-EU Common Declaration of NATO Summit in Warsaw.

As for the development of capabilities, the role of EDA and the cooperation opportunities it offers to the members states was pointed out. On the background of the developments of the international security environment the efforts of the EU were emphasized for the stability in the eastern and southern vicinity of the Union and the need to identify concrete ways of cooperation with partners to the east and to the south, for the consolidation of the local capacities in the security sector.

Federica Mogherini expressed her appreciation for Romania's participation in the military operations and missions conducted under the aegis of the Common Security and Defence Policy.



Minister Motoc and Federica Mogherini

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Romanian team at “Invictus Games Toronto 2017”

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, and the chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, will hold a videoconference at the defence ministry, from 12.30, on Monday, October 10, with soldiers wounded in internal or international missions, in order to invite them to be part of the Romanian team participating in “Invictus Games Toronto 2017”.

The videoconference will take place in Bucharest and five other garrisons across the country (the command of the 4th Infantry Division in Cluj-Napoca, the command of the 2nd Infantry Division in Buzău, the command of the 2nd Mountain Brigade in Braşov, the command of the 2nd Infantry Division in Craiova and the Fleet Command in Constanţa).

As part of this project, soldiers will be encouraged to take part in the “Invictus Team România” irrespective of their disability along with their families, as they would be able to be by their side during their training and the competition in Canada.

The leadership of the defence ministry will brief the wounded and injured soldiers on the contents and specifics of the event and the main stages to be covered as part of the preparation and participation in the competition.

Journalists who wish to participate in the videoconference in Bucharest are expected to arrive at the defence ministry (Checkpoint 3, next to Marriott Hotel), between 11.45 and 12.15, on Monday, October 10.



Videoconference with soldiers injured/wounded in internal or international missions