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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Bilateral Meeting between the Romanian and the Portuguese Defence Ministers

Special points of interests:

- Bilateral Meeting between the Romanian and the Portuguese Defence Ministers
- The Land Forces' Staff handed over FINABEL Committee's Chairmanship to Cyprus
- Minister Mircea Duşa evaluated the status of the works made at Deveselu Military Base
- The National Conference of the War Veterans National Association (WVNA)
- The meeting of the Romanian Defence Minister with the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe



The two defence ministers review the guard of honor

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, made an official visit to Portugal on Tuesday, 16 April, at the invitation of his counterpart, José Pedro Aguiar-Branco.

The two officials talks focused on military bilateral relations and ways of furthering them. The two ministers reiterated that Romania and Portugal are reliable defence partners and agreed to resume the reunions of the Defence Joint Committee.

The main topic on the agenda was the acquisition of F-16 aircraft from Portugal. The two ministers reviewed the technical negotiations that took place until now. They agreed to continue negotiations and to establish a deadline in this respect at the end of June.

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, told the Portuguese officials that Romania is interested in developing cooperation at service level in the field of training, personnel training and technical support.

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Afghanistan, Chicago Summit, the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) were all topics the two ministers dealt with. They also reviewed the agenda of the European Affairs Ministers to take place in Luxembourg on 22 and 23 April 2013.

The Land Forces' Staff handed over FINABEL Committee's Chairmanship to Cyprus



Hand over/take over of FINABEL Committee's flag

The hand over/take over ceremony of FINABEL Committee chairmanship and the flag march of the participating countries took place on Tuesday, 16 April, from 11.00 at the Palace of Parliament – „Sala Drepturile omului” [Human Rights Hall], in the presence of the European Chiefs of Staff and representatives of some European and NATO military agencies.

„Sixty years ago, a group of countries from the Western

Europe established this organization named FINABEL. The organization got extended over the years. Romania has been a FINABEL member since 2008. We have been discussing the common issues emerged during the transformation process of the Land Force structures from NATO and UE member countries. We are looking for ways of facing the emerging challenges. The Romanian Land Forces held the chairmanship of the committee during April 2012 - April 2013”, declared Lieutenant General Sorin Ioan, chief of Land Forces Staff.

Established in 1953 by France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg, the FINABEL Committee aimed mainly at promoting common procurement programs and later included the interoperability of doctrine among the Land Forces of the European member states. The FINABEL Committee is currently consisting of the chiefs of Land Forces Staff of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, Finland, Romania, Cyprus, Malta and Czech Republic.

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**Minister Mircea Duşa evaluated the status of
the works made at Deveselu Military Base**

Defence Minister Mircea Duşa visiting Deveselu military base

Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, went to Deveselu, on Thursday, April 18 to check on the status of the works made to organize the military training facility that will be part of the US ballistic missile defence system.

The delegation was mainly interested in seeing the access road in order to make a correct estimate of the works to be done and set a deadline. „We wanted to check on the status of the works and this can be done only on the spot. The Defence Ministry together with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration succeeded in allocating money for the waste water plant and solve the issue related to the road crossing over the railway that facilitates the access to the future base. The access road and the waste water plant will be finalized until the end of June with the help of the City Hall “, declared the defence minister.

Also, minister Duşa promised the City Hall representatives they would get the ministry's support so that all the works assigned to the Romanian part be finalized according to the schedule.

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The National Conference of the War Veterans National Association (WVNA)



The opening ceremony of WVNA

The National Conference of the War Veterans National Association (WVNA) took place on Thursday, April 18, at the Military Club's Marble Hall, in the presence of the State Secretary for Parliamentary Liaison, Public Information and Personnel's Welfare, Vasile Costea.

The MoND official ensured the eldest soldiers of the country of the proper respect and sent them the best regards on his and defence minister's behalf.

„Showing our respect for the sacrifice of our heroes and for all the war veterans that, unfortunately, are no longer among us is our responsibility. We make all efforts and are willing to solve all your emerging issues so that you can feel loved and respected”, State Secretary Costea mentioned. He also emphasized that the Romanian Armed Force is an important institution for the citizens, being at the top of our people's preferences. In his turn, (Ret.) General Marin Dragnea, the chairman of WVNA, presented the annual activity report of his association.

The event was organized in the context of the War Veterans Day which will be celebrated on April 29. This year, it has been 111 years since the establishment of the *war veteran* title.

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The meeting of the Romanian Defence Minister with the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, had an office call with Lieutenant General Donald M. Campbell, the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, on Friday, April 19, at the ministry headquarters.

During the official talks, minister Duşa stated that Romania pays a great deal of attention to its Strategic Partnership with the USA, which offers co-operation opportunities in the military field, being of outmost importance for the national and regional security. Referring to the anti-missile shield that is to be deployed to the Romanian territory, Mircea Duşa emphasized that „this is of strategic importance and stands for a security provider to our country and the other South-Eastern Europe countries against the emerging challenges”. The Romanian official informed the American part about the status of the works and ensured the delegation that the project would be developed according to the timeline established.

Our defence minister considers that the Romanian Armed Force is a credible and reliable partner especially due to the support given by the US part consisting in military equipment and the troops' training. Also, minister Duşa specified that „Romania is preoccupied with identifying ways of continuing this co-operation after concluding the ISAF mission in Afghanistan so that it can meet the future operational requirements”.

In his turn, Lieutenant General Donald Campbell thanked the Romanian militaries deployed in the theaters of operations who prove their professionalism and to „Romania, because it has been involved in the mission from Afghanistan”.

Lieutenant General Campbell also met with the chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă, with whom he discussed about the continuation of co-operation in Afghanistan after 2014 with the view to establishing the connected forces, according to the Connected Forces Initiative.



Defence Minister Mircea Duşa and
Lieutenant General Donald M. Campbell