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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Minister Mircea Duşa at the Distinguished Visitors' Day of
Exercise "DRAGOON CROSSING ROMÂNIA 2015"**

Special points of interests:

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- The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces
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- Bilateral meeting with the Defence Minister of Greece
- Mircea Duşa at the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) at the level of Defence Ministers



Minister Mircea Duşa at the at the Distinguished Visitors' Day of Exercise
„DRAGOON CROSSING ROMÂNIA 2015“

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, participated, on Monday, October 26, in the Distinguished Visitors' Day of Romanian-American Exercise "DRAGOON CROSSING ROMÂNIA 2015", conducted in the area of locality Mândruloc, Arad County.

The multinational joint exercise conducted over 25 and 26 October, aimed at showing the interoperability of the two armed forces and the development of planning, command and carry out ability to cross water lines.

DRAGOON CROSSING ROMÂNIA 2015 brought together 150 American troops and 37 combat vehicles of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment of the US Army and over 250 troops of the Romanian land Forces, of the 18th "Banat" Infantry Brigade and the 10th "Dunărea de Jos" Engineers Brigade, with the support of five MiG 21 LanceR aircraft and IAR 330 Puma helicopters of the Romanian Air Force, as well as divers from the Romanian Navy.

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Romanian Troops Participate In NATO, Trident Juncture 15 – Exercise

The Romanian Armed Forces participates in the second, field part of the multinational exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15 – TRJE 15, conducted in San Gregorio, Spain, from October 21 to November 6. The Land Forces participate with 75 soldiers – a recce platoon of the 528th “Vlad Țepeș” Recce Battalion that, together with similar structures of the Belgian and Spanish military, will infiltrate the enemy’s positions in order to gather data and intelligence on their forces. The 202nd “General Gheorghe Teleman” CBRN Defence Battalion is responsible for personnel, vehicles, equipment and land decontamination.

The Center for Psychological Operations is represented by 3 tactical teams.

NATO participates in Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 in Italy, Portugal and Spain, from 3 October to 6 November 2015, whose purpose is to train, test and certify the NATO Response Force for 2016. NRF consists of a highly ready and technologically advanced multinational joint force up to the tasks ahead.

The two parts exercise involve about 36,000 personnel from more than 30 Allied and Partner Nations and International Organizations such as the EU and AU.

Command Post Exercise (CPX) took place in Norway from 3 to 16 October, whereas part two for Tactical level troops is conducted in Italy, Portugal and Spain, from 21 October to 6 November.

Meeting of the Defence Minister with the Chief of Military Intelligence of Turkey

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Dușa, met with Lieutenant General Mustafa Özsoy, chief of military intelligence in the General Staff of the Republic of Turkey, at the defence ministry headquarters, on Tuesday, October 20.

Minister Mircea Dușa praised the high standards of the cooperation between the two armed forces, both at bilateral level and within the Alliance. “We will continue to endorse the common projects we are involved in within NATO”, the Romanian defence minister stated.



The Minister of national defence Mircea Dușa and Lieutenant General Mustafa Özsoy, chief of military intelligence in the General Staff of the Republic of Turkey

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The meeting agenda included talks on the last developments of the security situation in the extended Black Sea region and the Middle East, the refugees crisis, the participation in NATO exercises and identifying new ways to extend defence cooperation.

The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces

The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces was celebrated this year through events organized across the country in all localities that host military units, in the countries where Romania has defence attachées and in theaters of operations where Romanian troops are deployed.

A ceremony was organized in Rossoška, Volgograd region, the Russian Federation, at 10.00 hrs., on October 25, for the inauguration of a Romanian Cemetery, as a first war necropolis built in honour of the Romanian soldiers who died in the battle of Stalingrad.

Another wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Cemetery of the Romanian Heroes in Rakoskersztur, Budapest, on October 27. On The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces, the military Services staffs, the commands, large units and units across the country organized the Day of the Open Gates, cultural, artistic, sports activities, symposiums, meetings with war veterans, exhibitions, film galas and maintenance works at the heroes' cemeteries and monuments. Project "Ziua Armatei României în şcoli" [The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces celebrated in schools] was conducted in schools and high schools, while the voluntary members of INVICTUS România group continued "Ştafeta Veteranilor" [Veterans' Relay].



The national anthem is being played

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The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces in Schools

The Ministry of National Defence organized over October 19 to 23 an event called “The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces in Schools”.

Teams of officers from all military Services along with students from military education establishments as well as representatives of the information-recruiting offices talked of the importance of The Day of the Romanian Armed Forces, military missions and ways to access a military career to young students of seven high schools from Bucharest and about other 80 civilian education institutions across the country.

The soldiers talked of the experience they acquired during national and international missions and the place and role of each Service within the armed forces.

Representatives of the information-recruiting offices along with students from military education establishments talked of the benefits of choosing a military career to pupils of 7, 8h, 11 and 12 grades.

Telephone Conversation Between Minister Mircea Duşa and the United States Deputy Secretary of Defense

Com 214-Telephone Conversation Between Minister Mircea Duşa and the United States Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, discussed over the phone with the US Deputy Secretary of Defense, Robert O. Work, of the evolution of “Resolute Support” mission in Afghanistan.

The American official informed the Romanian defence minister on the declaration to be made by the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, on continuing “Resolute Support” mission in 2016.

Other topics revolved around bilateral cooperation within the Strategic partnership, the bilateral and allied reassurance measures on the Eastern flank and NATO’s strategic adaptation in view of the future Warsaw Summit.

Minister Mircea Duşa and NATO Deputy Secretary General, Alexander Vershbow, at the Distinguished Visitors’ Day of Exercise “DACIAN VIPER 2015”

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, participated in the Distinguished Visitors’ Day of Romanian-American Exercise “DACIAN VIPER 2015”, organized at the 71st Air Base of Câmpia Turzii, on Friday, October 16 .

On this occasion, Minister Duşa had a meeting with NATO Deputy Secretary General, H.E. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow. At the end of the activity the two officials made press statements.

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The Romanian-American exercise DACIAN VIPER 2015 was conducted over 13 to 30 October at the 71st Air Base of Câmpia Turzii.

The Romanian Air Force participated in the exercise with about 200 military pilots and technical personnel, with six MiG-21 LanceR aircraft and three IAR-330 helicopters (SOCAT and MEDEVAC), whereas the Alabama Air National Guard brought in the exercise about 200 troops, eight F-16 aircraft and the necessary equipment to operate them.

The exercise aimed at increasing the level of interoperability, the experience exchange and improving the training of the Romanian and American personnel by carrying out joint flights, in agreement with NATO standards.



The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, at the Distinguished Visitors' Day of Romanian-American Exercise „DACIAN VIPER 2015”

Meeting of Minister Mircea Duşa with US Ambassador to Bucharest, H.E. Hans Klemm

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, received the US Ambassador to Bucharest, H.E. Hans Klemm, at the defence ministry, today, October 13.

The two officials discussed the current security situation in the region, defence-related relations between Romania and the U.S. within the Strategic Partnership, the assurance measures in a bilateral and allied context, the strategic



Official talks at the Ministry of National Defence

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adaptation of the Alliance in view of the upcoming NATO Summit in Warsaw, as well as extending the Romanian-American contacts at political and military level.

As to the operationalization of the anti-missile facility in Deveselu, the defence minister pointed out that it is part of a complex project, whereas its operationalization by the end of the year, within the agreed parameters, is essential in the new strategic context and in view of the integration within NATO's anti-missile defense.

"The bilateral Strategic Partnership represents one of the main directions of Romania's defence policy, but also a proof of Romania's firm commitment as a trustworthy ally of the U.S.," the minister of national defence stated.

Related to the implementation of assurance measures aimed at strengthening the security of the allied states in the Eastern flank of the Alliance, the defence minister praised the United States' decision to become actively involved through a substantial presence of American forces in the region.

"I want to use this opportunity to express gratitude for the constant support of the United States and their important contribution to the manning of the multinational positions in NATO's command and control structures in Bucharest. This contribution has a great impact strategy-wise," minister Duşa added.

The upcoming Warsaw Summit was another topic of discussion as, according to the defence minister, it should focus on tackling NATO's long term strategy of adaptation.

"In order to obtain the desired effect, an efficient defence and deterrence posture should ensure a visible and persistent allied military long term presence on the Eastern flank. We endorse, totally, the development of the infrastructure needed for the rapid deployment of allied forces, including by implementing projects funded by NATO's pool of funds" minister Duşa added.

Bilateral meeting with the Defence Minister of Greece

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with Mr. Panos Kammenos, defence minister of the Hellenic Republic, on the side of NATO Ministers of Defence meeting, in Brussels, on Thursday, October 8.

The meeting of the two ministers focused on identifying the positions the two countries share related to the new strategic context in the Eastern and Southern neighboring region of the two organizations Romania and Greece are part of, NATO and EU respectively.

Minister Mircea Duşa was confident that new opportunities could be found to develop cooperation at the level of the services of the two armed forces, by jointly training personnel by means of military exercises.

The mutual interest became apparent during the discussions, for the continuation of cooperation between the Navy Academies, by exchanging trainers and students, carrying out training of cadets and Navy officers during stages onboard ships and coordinating the education curricula of the two institutions.

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As for the cooperation within the SEDM process, minister Duşa declared that „Romania will continue to pursue the goals it had during the chairmanship of the initiative, over July 2013 to July 2015, among which attracting new full pledged members to the regional initiative and increasing its visibility as a successful model of regional cooperation”.

At the end of the meeting, minister Duşa thanked his Hellenic counterpart for the contribution with personnel to the NATO commands in Romania, as a manifestation of the solidarity spirit of the allies.

Mircea Duşa at the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) at the level of Defence Ministers

NATO ministers of defence discussed today in Brussels the implementation of the Readiness Action Plan to ensure the increase of the operational capacity of the Alliance and the goals set for the Warsaw Summit related to the strategic adaptation of the Alliance and the developments in NATO's strategies to counter hybrid war and the possibilities to improve cyber defence.

A topic of interest was the security situation in Afghanistan and Syria. The latest developments, especially what happened in Kunduz, are as many reasons of concern on the security situation in Afghanistan. The defence ministers also considered that the situation in Syria is a reason of concern, especially in terms of the effects on security generated in the region but also the humanitarian consequences.

„As to the major challenges the North Atlantic organization faces, we consider the reassurance measures should continue and should be strengthened” minister Mircea Duşa stated.

The Romanian official said our country gives a special importance to the developments in the region, related to the command and control capabilities available for the Alliance. „As you already know, we made the necessary steps to activate the NFIU on our territory. Moreover, we continue to work for the activation of the Multinational Division South-East. We intend to reach the Initial Operational Capacity ahead of Warsaw Summit and to have the full operational capacity by April 2018” minister Duşa declared.



Group photo at the meeting of NATO Ministers of Defence
(source: NATO.int.)

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During the discussions they had during the meeting, the Romanian dignitary emphasized that Romania redefined its contribution to the NRF in the framework of the allied efforts to reduce deficits in 2016, by augmenting its participation in the air force capabilities with two search&rescue helicopters and four airlift helicopters.

During the meeting, the defence ministers agreed on activating two new NFIUs in Slovakia and Hungary and to continue the process of rendering operational the Maritime Strategy of the Alliance.

An important topic was preparing the agenda of the future NATO Summit in Warsaw, with a view to the strategic adaptation of the Alliance to the new security environment.

Minister Mircea Duşa also participated in the NATO-Georgia session where the Alliance relations with Georgia would be analyzed, the stage of the reforms in this country and the stage of implementing NATO's substantial package of assistance for Georgia.