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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**The Romanian injured militaries hospitalized in Germany were visited by their families and the Romanian defence minister**

## Special points of interests:

- The Romanian injured militaries hospitalized in Germany were visited by their families and the Romanian defence minister
- Commanding General, Allied Land Command, NATO, in Romania
- Minister Mircea Duşa: “Consolidation of the European cooperation for the development of the military capabilities makes EU stronger”
- US – Romanian Bilateral Exercise “Dacian Viper 2014”
- The Minister of National Defence Met with the Mauritanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Mircea Duşa Had a Telephone Conversation with his US counterpart Charles Timothy Hagel



Corporal III<sup>rd</sup> class Eugen Valentin Pătru, his sister and Minister Duşa

The Romanian injured militaries, hospitalized in the US Regional Medical Center from Landstuhl, Germany, were visited by their families and the defence minister, Mircea Duşa, on Wednesday, April 16.

The militaries' health state is positively evolving. This has been proven in the medical report issued by the hospital medical team.

Minister Duşa thanked the commander of the Medical Center, Colonel Judith Lee, in the name of all Romanian militaries for the medical care provided, offering the Colonel the Romanian Armed Forces Emblem of Honor “65 Romanian militaries injured in different theaters of operations have been taken care of in this hospital. I'm glad to be here today, together with our militaries' families, especially because the Easter is coming and they should feel closer to their homes”.

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In his turn, Colonel Lee said: “I want to make sure that we’ll be always here to take care of the injured militaries. And I would like to thank all Romanian militaries for participating in the missions from the Afghanistan theater of operations”.

During a short ceremony, the defence minister promoted Second Lieutenant Ionuț Alin Marinescu to the next rank, thanking him for his courage and the way he had done his duty, by expressing his hope that the presence of his family will comfort him. “Immediately after the promotion order is read, we’ll leave you in the company of your family members”, minister Dușa said; Lieutenant Marinescu replied: “Minister, you are also part of my family. I am proud I succeeded in accomplishing my duties, in serving my country, but I am sorry for loosing one of my comrades”.

Also, defence minister handed over the Emblem of Merit in the Service of Peace Ist class to Corporals IIIrd class Marius Bogdan Radu and Eugen Valentin Pătru.

During his visit at Ramstein military base, Minister Dușa met Major General Richard C. Longo, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe and Commander and U.S. Army NATO.

### **Commanding General, Allied Land Command, NATO, in Romania**

Lieutenant General Frederick Hodges, *Commanding General, Allied Land Command*, NATO, made a visit in Romania through April 14 and 15.

During his visit, Lieutenant General Hodges met with the State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, Valeriu Nicuț, and with the Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă, and with the Commandant of the National Defence University, Air-Flotilla General Gabriel-Florin Moisescu.

The Chief of Land Forces Staff, Major General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă met with *the Commanding General* of Allied Land *Command*, NATO on Tuesday, April 15, at the Land Forces Staff Headquarters. The Land Forces Staff’s organizational chart, its transformation process, the missions performed by the Land Forces militaries in the various theaters of operations, the procurement and modernization programs and the on-going missions were some of the topics discussed during the meeting of the two officials.

“During my visit in Romania, I saw an armed force trained for the future, which invests in the development of the military educational system: and the training of the young cadets studying in the Land Forces’ Academy is impressive. The Training Center from Cincu is about to become an important regional center, a multinational training element which can be used by the neighboring nations, also. We’ll continue to support the collaboration relationship between the Allied Land Command, NATO and the Romanian Land Forces. When I see a Romanian military, I see a NATO one”, concluded Lieutenant General Hodges, and the end of his meeting with the Chief of Land Forces Headquarters, Major General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă.

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In his turn, Major General Ciucă thanked Lieutenant General Hodges for the constant support offered by the US partners. “I am convinced that the good collaboration between our institutions will continue and we shall try to continuously identify new cooperation ways and common activities”, stated Major General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă at the end of the activity.

Lieutenant General Hodges also visited Land Forces Academy “Nicolae Bălcescu”, where he was briefed about the military educational system and the education and training curricula of the future leaders, the Simulation Combat Training Center from Cincu, where he learned about the infrastructure and training facilities as well the way the specific training programs are run and the training capabilities the center provides for the force training at multinational level.

### **Minister Mircea Duşa: “Consolidation of the European cooperation for the development of the military capabilities makes EU stronger”**

The statement was made by defence minister, Mircea Duşa, during the Foreign Affairs Defence Council Meeting, attended by the defence ministers of the EU member countries on Tuesday, April 15 at Luxemburg. One of the meeting agenda topics was the development of the military capabilities. “It is important that the European public opinion acknowledge the necessity to develop military capabilities to increase strategic autonomy of



Aspect from the Meeting

EU for crisis situations management. Security and defence truly matter”, Minister Mircea Duşa stated, by expressing his hope that this will be reflected by an adequate support of defence area within the EU member states.

The European Maritime Security Strategy was another topic debated by the defence ministers of the EU countries. In this context, Minister Mircea Duşa stated the fact that the document must take EU for a credible partner in the global maritime field but also enable a strategic and trans-sectorial approach of

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the maritime security by means of a balanced conception of all basins of interest for the EU, including the current risks and threats posed to the Black Sea.

The Foreign Affairs Defence Council Meeting also caused an ample debate on the Ukraine crisis impact over the European defence policy.

“We fully support the establishment of a European technologic and industrial competitive base which could offer the EU the necessary autonomy and military capabilities”, stated the defence minister during the European Defence Agency Steering Committee’s Meeting, which preceded the Foreign Affairs Defence Council one.

In this context, Romania will support the proposals meant to contribute to the promotion of the convergence of the member states’ planning processes by increasing the transparency of the national planning processes. The consolidation of the defence industry was another subject of the meeting. Romania will assume certain objectives of strategic level with respect to ensuring military capabilities in support of the European defence industry development.

### US – Romanian Bilateral Exercise “Dacian Viper 2014”

Over 200 Romanian soldiers, pilots and technical staff and MiG-21 LanceR of the 71st Air Base and some 250 troops of the US Air Forces and F-16 aircraft participate in US - Romanian Bilateral Exercise “Dacian Viper 2014” conducted in the military airfield of Câmpia Turzii over 10-17 April.

The exercise aims at improving training in a multinational environment, developing cooperation and interoperability between NATO countries and exercising techniques, tactics and procedures with the American partner.

“Dacian Viper”, now on its 4th edition, was previously conducted at the 71st Air Base of Câmpia Turzii in 2006, 2008 and 2012, with the goal of training together pilots, technical staff, air traffic controllers and



Distinguished Visitors’ Day - Romanian-American Exercise  
“Dacian Viper 2014”

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staff officers in real time, for the planning and conducting of mixed formation flight missions and mixed US-Romanian crews.

The exercise was planned one year before and is part of the main activities plan of the Air Forces Staff.

### **The Minister of National Defence Met with the Mauritanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation**

The Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa, met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Ahmed Ould Teguedi, who makes a visit in Romania.

During the official talks, Minister Ahmed Ould Teguedi said he intended to initiate and develop military cooperation between our two countries.

In this respect, the Romanian party is going to launch an invitation to an expert level delegation of the Mauritanian defence minister to visit Romania for a first round of discussions regarding the legal framework and future possible fields of cooperation.

### **Mircea Duşa Had a Telephone Conversation with his US counterpart Charles Timothy Hagel**

The US official sent condolences, on behalf of the US President, Barack Obama, for the death of 2nd Lieutenant (posthumous) Claudiu Ştefan Vulpoiu, the Romanian soldier who died in Afghanistan last week.

The Secretary of Defence, Charles Timothy Hagel, reaffirmed the US support in promoting the Strategic Partnership with Romania and expressed his satisfaction, on behalf of the US Government, for the fact that Romania continues to be a reliable partner of the Alliance at the eastern border of the Euro-Atlantic space.

In the context of the new geostrategic developments the two officials discussed the redefinition of NATO goals before the Summit in Wales. During the conversation with his the US counterpart, minister Duşa brought up the topic of the security in the Black Sea region and the cooperation between the Navy forces of the two countries in the form of exercises and cooperation projects.

Another important topic on the agenda was the need to reposition NATO forces and capabilities in the border countries of the Alliance, regarding air defence, maritime security and surveillance, as well as ensuring the security of the common air space.