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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Romania's National Day,  
celebrated by the Romanian Armed Forces

## Special points of interests:

- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Romania's National Day, celebrated by the Romanian Armed Forces
- Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, awarded His Beatitude Daniel, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Romanian Armed Forces' Emblem of Honour
- State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning Viorel Oancea participated in the Meeting of the European Foreign Affairs Council
- Deployment ceremony to Afghanistan of the Combined Team Zabul and 300<sup>th</sup> "Sf. Andrei" Mechanized Infantry Battalion



March of the historical flags

The Ministry of National Defence together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Romanian Intelligence Service and the Guard and Protection Service organized on 1<sup>st</sup> December a military parade in Arcul de Triumf Square, from Bucharest, to celebrate Romania's National Day.

The Romanian president, Traian Basescu, the minister of defence, Gabriel Oprea, representatives of the Romanian Parliament, the Chief of General Staff, general lieutenant Stefan Danila, the Chiefs of Services of the Romanian Armed Forces, diplomats, as well as over 8000 militaries participated in this event.

Over 1,500 troops and equipment of the Ministry of National Defence and of the other institutions from the national defence field participated in the defiling from Arcul de Triumf Square.

Romania's National Day is each year celebrated by a military parade organized in the capital city and a series of ceremonies organized in different cities

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of our country with the participation of officials, military and civilian personnel as well as of the Romanian citizens.

This year ceremony started with the wreath-laying at the Memorial of Romanian soldiers killed on duty from Child' Park and the Unknown Soldier's Tomb, in Carol I Park.

The Ceremonies for December 1<sup>st</sup> concluded with a concert of military songs followed by the retreat with torches of the 30<sup>th</sup> "Mihai Viteazul" Guard Regiment.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918, the National Gathering from Alba Iulia adopted a Resolution that confirms the union of all Romanians from Transylvania and entire Banat with Romania. This day, which stands for the crowning with success of all efforts made by all Romanian generations along our tumultuous history in order to complete the national union, became Romania's National Day beginning with the Revolution from December, 1989.



Officials attending the military parade in Arcul de Triumf Square



Parade commander, Brigadier General Nicolae Ciucă, crossing under the Arcul de Triumf

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, held a videoconference with Romanian troops deployed in the theaters of operations of Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina mentioning that "his soul and his thoughts go to them on this National Day of Romania." Minister Gabriel Oprea congratulated the militaries for the missions accomplished and their professionalism: "the missions impeccably accomplished by the Romanian troops stand proof for Romania as a reliable, credible and predictable partner of the international community. Its international commitments make Romania a security and stability generator".

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## Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, awarded His Beatitude Daniel, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Romanian Armed Forces' Emblem of Honour



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On December 1<sup>st</sup>, during a ceremony occasioned by the National Day of Romania and held at the Patriarchal Palace, the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, awarded His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Romanian Armed Forces' Emblem of Honour.

“In this holy day for all Romanians- the day I swore allegiance to Romania-I am profoundly honoured to confer one of the greatest personalities of the contemporary orthodoxy, His Beatitude Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, the highest distinction of the Romanian Ministry of National Defence”, stated Minister Gabriel Oprea within the solemn ceremony.

Minister of National Defence emphasized on homeland love and faith in God as fundamental values that guided Romanians along their history: “Storm-beaten by hard-time and needs, Romanian people has always placed its reliance on God

and looked for support from the Armed Forces.” It is not accidental that the two fundamental state institutions, the church and the Armed Forces, hold the first two positions in the citizens' trust hierarchy. Over the past 150 years, chaplains' presence among the troops decisively contributed to their spirits and belief in victory being kept up. Resuming the ancient tradition, the chaplains stand by Romanian troops, wherever they are carrying out the entrusted missions, home and in theatres of operations”, stated Minister Oprea.

According to the Minister of National Defence, the Romanian Armed Forces' Emblem of Honour” represents the army's humble appreciation of the effort His Beatitude made to the Armed Forces' raised prestige home and abroad. ”

The Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church thanked for the distinction that also may be interpreted as an acknowledgement of the effort made by the Romanian Orthodox priests who always were with the Romanian troops in their fights for the Great Union and in the significant moments along history.

“Over 600,000 troops sacrificed so that Transylvania, Banat, Crisana and Maramures regions may join the motherland, the Kingdom of Romania, to which Basarabia was added on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1918 and Bucovina on November 28<sup>th</sup>, the same year”. The Armed Forces were everywhere, encouraging and displaying the people's wish. We appreciate that today, as always, it is our duty to defend the national integrity as well as our people spiritual integrity and our Romanian dignity one.

The Romanian Armed Forces' Emblem of Honour is the highest honorary distinction of the Ministry of National Defence.



## **State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning Viorel Oancea participated in the Meeting of the European Foreign Affairs Council**

On Monday, November 30, a delegation of the Romanian Ministry of National Defence, headed by Viorel Oancea, State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, participated in the Meeting of the European Foreign Affairs Council (CAE), in Brussels.

The CAE meeting was preceded by a meeting of the European Defence Agency's Steering Board, where the development prospects of EU military capabilities were discussed, mainly by Pooling & Sharing. These cost-effective measures would be implemented in the defence sector by developing such capabilities that are mutually interesting and open ways for cooperation among member states.

During the working session the topics discussed addressed EU military operations and missions focusing on latest developments in Somalia (maritime operation on World Food Programme, EUNAVFOR Atlanta, European Union Training Mission Somalia, "EUTM Somalia") and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR Althea). Other topics tackled would be EU partnerships with other international organizations, such as NATO, UN, or with third parties participating in missions and operations under the aegis of the Common Security and Defence Policy.

## **Deployment ceremony to Afghanistan of the Combined Team Zabul and 300<sup>th</sup> "Sf. Andrei" Mechanized Infantry Battalion**



The Minister of National Defence Gabriel Oprea addressing the audience

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, participated on Friday, November 18, in the ceremony organized in Galați, to mark the deployment to Afghanistan of the Combined Team Zabul and the 300<sup>th</sup> "Sf. Andrei" Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

The Chief of General Staff, lieutenant general Stefan Danila, generals and officers from the MoND central structures, Services, war veterans, active-duty and reserve militaries, representatives of local public authorities and the Archbishop of Dunarea de Jos, His Holiness Father Casian, also took part in the ceremony.

In his speech, minister Gabriel Oprea expressed his confidence in the militaries that would leave on mission stating that they

truly represent Romania worldwide, being the most respected and appreciated ambassadors of our country abroad. At the same time he thanked the militaries for their excellent training, the courage, determination and abnegation they would prove in the accomplishment of their new assignment, specifying that their presence in the theaters of operations is a guarantee of NATO success in providing security and stability to Afghanistan.

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On this occasion, the minister of defence paid homage to the militaries from 300th "Sf. Andrei" Mechanized Infantry Battalion that died on duty- second lieutenants (pm) Narcis Şonei, Cosmin Ionuţ Sandu and Claudiu Marius Covrig: "I, as minister of defence, can assure you that the memory of our heroes would be forever cherished in the Romanian Armed Force. We will always stand by our heroes' families that will constantly be our concern. We never leave anyone behind".

"Our troops are equipped with the most efficient armored transport gear- MRAP-type vehicles - the same vehicles used by the Americans. (...) You must be alert, take all security measures and permanently take into account that you are the most valuable human resource of the Romanian Armed Force and, consequently, your safety is an absolute priority for me and the MoND team I'm ahead of, stated minister Gabriel Oprea; minister Oprea also emphasized the fact that Afghanistan is and will be a complex security environment with constant emerging danger. Also, the Romanian minister of defence urged the militaries to act according to their mandate, approach each mission with full responsibility and professionalism, prove discipline and correctness when co-operating and their partners and allies.

When concluding his speech, minister Oprea addressed the militaries a message full of confidence and hope : "Each of you - either military, small unit or unit -represents a value but, together, we are a force. The country awaits-as always-great achievements from us and I am convinced that, together, we will reach its expectations. Today you are given the mandate to serve your country abroad with devotion. You must honorably accomplish this mission!"