

**March 10th, 2011****Issue no. 4**

110 Izvor St., Bucharest, Romania

tel/fax +4021-3195698

e-mail: drp@mapn.ro

www.mapn.gov.ro

ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**Ceremony for awarding the
„Crest of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces“**

Special points of interests:

- Ceremony for awarding the „Crest of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces“
- Air Force Detachment Deployed to Afghanistan



The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, awarded the „Crest of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces“ to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Teodor Baconschi

During a ceremony held at the defence ministry location on Tuesday, March 8, the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea awarded the „Crest of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces“ to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Teodor Baconschi, to the Secretary General of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Robert Marius Cazanciuc, to the Ambassador of Romania to Libya, Mr. Nicolae Stan, as a token of respect and for special merits. They had important contributions to the effort made for the evacuation of the Romanian and foreign citizens from Libya.

During the same ceremony, twenty officers and twenty-two NCOs and WOs, the aircrews of the military aircraft C-130 Hercules and C-27 J Spartan and the ground personnel, were awarded the „Crest of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces“, for the repatriation of citizens from Libya.

March 10th, 2011

Issue no. 4

Pag. 2

Minister Gabriel Oprea said: „It is for the first time after WW2 that the Romanian Armed Forces have been involved in evacuating endangered citizens from a foreign country by air. We are proud to say that the mission has been successfully accomplished and the respective citizens are now safe. The success of this complex mission was possible through the cooperation and synchronized effort of the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other institutions with responsibilities in national security“.

The defence minister thanked the aircrews for the extraordinary efforts made during the missions that successfully evacuated 231 Romanian and 86 foreign citizens.

„Just like the Armed Forces that have always helped the people during humanitarian missions and interventions at home, the aircrews of the Romanian Air Force did their



“Ceremony for awarding of “Crest of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces” to personnel of the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for participating in the evacuation of Romanian citizens from Libya”



duty with devotion, loyalty and honor. Beyond the hardships of military life, today is a good day to speak of solidarity, courage and modesty. Romanian troops, whether in the theaters of operations, assisting flood stricken population at home or onboard airplanes, are a strong and beautiful example of solidarity“, minister Gabriel Oprea added.

Between February 24 and March 4, the aircrews onboard of the aircraft under the command of Colonel

(AF) Viorel Pana, namely Lieutenant-Colonels (AF) Adrian Takacs, Mihai Rotca, Marian Dinescu, Ion Staiculescu, Majors (AF) Bogdan Dogaru and Emil Tecuceanu, carried out seven evacuation missions, flying 29,217 kilometers in 76 flight hours.



Air Force Detachment Deployed to Afghanistan

A military ceremony was organized to mark the deployment of an Air Force detachment to Afghanistan, on March 2. Starting April it will hold the command of the Kabul International Airport (KAIA).

The 75-troop detachment will take over the position as leading nation of the Afghan airport from the Hungarians, manning the administrative and command positions of the airport. The Romanian detachment will conduct its activity within NATO-led ISAF operation.



In his message to the troops, the defence minister said: „You worked hard to reach the capability of taking over such an important mission for the Air Forces. I am confident that the way you were selected and your intense training are the premises for a successful mission“.

Minister Gabriel Oprea's message continued: „You will operate in a multinational environment in which you will be required to carry out complex missions covering the entire range of operations from air to protecting the forces transiting the most important airport connection in northern Afghanistan. I know a difficult mission lies ahead. You are responsible for the coordination of the daily 45□ to 5□□ flights on that airport, in an area under constant terrorist threat“. The minister's message highlighted his belief that the troops the Air Force chose for this complex mission, the command of the Kabul International Airport, will ensure its success.

The ceremony was attended by soldiers' families, officers, representatives of the Air Force Staff and the General Staff.

Romania is the first NATO nation to hold this position for one year. Previously, detachments rotated every six months.

Among the main responsibilities of the Romanian troops in command of the airport are coordinating daily flights, airport procedures and processing weather reports. They will also ensure the logistic support of airport activities, ensuring the force protection and airport security, access control, military police missions, identifying and removing improvised explosive devices.