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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Military and religious ceremony occasioned by the departure of the militaries of 634th Infantry Battalion „Jderii“ to Afghanistan

Special points of interests:

- Military and religious ceremony occasioned by the departure of the militaries of 634th Infantry Battalion „Jderii“ to Afghanistan
- Sergeant Florinel Enache, injured last year in Afghanistan, returned to his country
- Minister of National Defence visits Brussels
- Chief of General Staff participated in the Meetings of NATO Military Committee Meeting and EU Military Committee
- Minister Mircea Duşa met with General William M. Fraser III
- The visit to Romanian of the Commander of Special Operations Command Europe- SOCEUR



Minister Mircea Duşa reviewing the KAF GDA Company

The Defence Minister, Mircea Duşa, participated in the military and religious ceremony occasioned by the departure to Afghanistan of the 124 militaries of 634th Infantry Battalion „Jderii“ on Thursday, May 16th, at Piatra Neamţ. Representatives of the local and county public administration as well as the families of the militaries leaving for mission attended the festivity. The militaries from Piatra Neamţ will secure and guard the Kandahar Airport, evaluate and offer humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population, maintain the dialogue with the local authorities and leaders and perform missions together with the Afghan National Security Forces.

Our Defence Minister, Mircea Duşa, said: „I want to inform you that the Defence Minister does not issue the departure order to the theater of

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operations-the most dangerous place in the world-with pleasure. And when he does it, he takes responsibility for some militaries who took their oath to the country. You will be assigned a special mission. The Kandahar Airport is one of the largest military bases worldwide. You will have to guard and secure the airport. I'm convinced that you will make the Romanian Armed Forces proud once you make contact with the theater of operations“.

„And I will give you another verbal order besides the written departure one to Afghanistan: Come home in good health“, Mircea Dușa said, by adding that he hoped that he would meet them in Afghanistan in the near future.

Sergeant Florinel Enache, injured last year in Afghanistan, returned to his country



Minister Mircea Dușa hands over the Emblem of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces to Sergeant Florinel Enache

Sergeant Florinel Enache, injured last year in Afghanistan, returns home on May 15th, around 12.00, when he was be welcomed by the Minister of National Defence, Mircea Dușa, at the 90th Airlift Flotilla. The Romanian soldier was hospitalized at „Walter Reed“ Hospital, in Bethesda, Maryland, the United States of America and will continue the hospitalization period at „Dr. Carol Davila“ Emergency Military Hospital, Bucharest.

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Minister of National Defence visits Brussels

Minister Mircea Duşa and NATO Deputy Secretary General,
Ambassador Alexander Vershbow)

The Minister of Defence of Romania, Mr. Mircea Duşa, visited NATO Headquarters on Monday, 13 May 2013, when he met with the NATO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Alexander Vershbow. The talks focused on NATO agenda and aspects related to the impending Defence Ministerial to take place on 4 to 5 June this year. Minister Duşa reaffirmed Romania's political and operational commitment to a successful transition of the situation in Afghanistan, according to the agenda. He mentioned that a de-

cision of the Supreme Council of National Defence stipulates that the ratio of Romania's participation in the post-2014 mission in Afghanistan should be in the limits of the other allies' participation in the effort of the Alliance.

The way defence capabilities are allotted to nations within the defence planning process of the Alliance is a topic of high preeminence on the next month's defence ministerial agenda. Minister Duşa reassured the NATO official that Romania would meet the agreed targets concerning the available capabilities and the need to have a defence budget that could sustain the assumed political commitments.

The Romanian minister reaffirmed the government decision to increase the defence budget so that, by 2016, our country should be one of the NATO states that fulfils their requirement to allot two percent of their GDP to defence.

Security threats were another topic approached by the two officials. The defence minister showed that Romania was interested to get actively involved in the development of the allied policy concerning cyber defence. He also informed Ambassador Vershbow that the missile defence elements on Romanian territory get operational as planned.

The defence minister also met with Michel Barnier, the European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services. The meeting is part of an extended and consistent dialogue the Romanian Ministry of National Defence has with the European Commission onto the defence industry.

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The two officials discussed of the activity conducted by the European Commission and the European Defence Agency in terms of defence industrial policy, research and development and internal market. Minister Mircea Duşa said the defence ministry will take an active part in the European initiatives in the field of defence industry that are of interest to Romania, especially regarding pooling and sharing and participating in EDA projects.

Minister Mircea Duşa and Commissioner Michel Barnier discussed aspects of the preparations for the European Council meeting on defence related issues in December 2013. The Romanian official emphasized the importance of the preparations for this Council meeting for the adoption of some concrete decisions that would allow the EU future development from the perspective of the Common Security and Defence Policy. In his opinion, it is very important that the European Union defence industry take into account the development of the defence industry in medium and small states while having in mind the common interests of EU and NATO.

Minister Mircea Duşa and Commissioner Michel Barnier appreciated the good cooperation between the European Commission and the Romanian Ministry of National Defence and decided that the dialogue should continue in matters of common interest at the level of decision-makers and experts.

Chief of General Staff participated in the Meetings of NATO Military Committee Meeting and EU Military Committee



The chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă, during the reunion of 15 May

Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă, chief of General Staff, participated in the ceremony for the investiture of NATO's commander of Allied Command Operations (SACEUR), as well as in the meetings of NATO Military Committee and EU Military Committee, taking place in chiefs of defence format, over 13 to 16 May in Brussels.

The North Atlantic Council approved the appointment of General Philip M. Breedlove, of the U.S. Air Force, as SACEUR, who assumed command from James G. Stavridis, an event marked by a ceremony organized at SHAPE HQ, in Mons, Belgium, on 13 May.

NATO Chiefs of Defence met at NATO HQ in Brussels on 14 and 15 May to discuss ISAF Operation, „Resolute Support“ mission, KFOR, the overall security context of the Alliance and in other areas of interest.

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The agenda of the EU Military Committee which took place at EU Council location in Brussels on 16 May included the European External Action Service, the preparations for the European Council meeting of 2013 and EU-led missions and operations.

Minister Mircea Duşa met with General William M. Fraser III



Minister of National Defence, Mircea Duşa and General William M. Fraser III

Minister of National Defence Mircea Duşa met with General William M. Fraser III, Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, at the Ministry of National Defence headquarters in Bucharest, Tuesday, April 30.

The talks outlined the US – Romanian cooperation within the framework of the strategic partnership, with a focus on the military cooperation, NATO Transformation and the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Minister Mircea Duşa expressed his belief that the relationship between Romania and the United States would continue to be beneficial to the European and Euro-Atlantic security.

„We do appreciate the outstanding support provided by the US in training our military prior to their deployment to Afghanistan, and in procuring top priority equipment, as well as for the excellent cooperation between our soldiers during the joint operations“, Minister Duşa said.

In the same line, the Romanian Defence Minister showed that ISAF redeployment is expected to be a rather difficult task to fulfill, in which NATO would play the key role in coordinating the allied redeployment efforts.

The Romanian minister said that Romania will continue to support the US Forces rotation through the Constanta-Mihail Kogalniceanu transportation hub.

„Romania highly appreciates the US support in repatriating the Romanian military from the Afghanistan Theatre of Operations“, Mircea Duşa added.

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In turn, General Fraser showed that Romania had been a reliable partner for the US, and would get all the support needed in withdrawing its military from Afghanistan.

The visit to Romanian of the Commander of Special Operations Command Europe- SOCEUR



Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă, the chief of General Staff and MAJOR General Michael S. Repass, the Commander of Special Operations Command Europe

Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă, the chief of General Staff, met with Major General Michael S. Repass, the Commander of Special Operations Command Europe-SOCEUR, on Tuesday, April 30th. During the office call, the chief of General Staff emphasized the entire activity performed by the Commander of SOCEUR throughout his mandate (2010-2013) when the contribution of the Romanian Special Forces to ISAF significantly increased.

At the same time, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă thanked the US official for the support of-

ferred to the Romanian Special Forces throughout the joint training in more than 30 exercises.

On this occasion, Lieutenant General Ștefan Dănilă conferred the Commander of SOCEUR the General Staff's Emblem of Honor while Major General Repass offered, in his turn, the Meritorious Service Medal to the chief of Special Operations Component, Colonel Dumitru-Marius Crăciun.

The Commander of SOCEUR's visit agenda also comprised office talks with Major General Marian Hăpău, the General Director of General Defence Intelligence Directorate.