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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**NATO Communication and  
Information Technology Exercise, in Bucharest**

## Special points of interests:

- NATO Communication and Information Technology Exercise, in Bucharest
- Defence Minister's Visit to London
- Aegis Ashore Romania Inauguration
- Reunion of the political directors from the Defence Ministries of NATO member countries



Opening ceremony of exercise "Steadfast Cobalt 2016"

More than 1000 Soldiers from 30 NATO units are participating, from 22 May to 3 June, in the NATO exercise Steadfast Cobalt 2016 (SFCT16) within the 48 Communication and Information Centre in Bucharest.

The purpose of the exercise is to test and evaluate the interoperability of the communication and information technology systems (CIS) of NATO deployable components during a major collective defence joint operation in Eastern Europe.

SFCT16 is one of the certification exercises for those CIS military units which will be part of the enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF) in 2017.

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As an opening of this exercise, an international military football competition, named „Steadfast Cobalt 2016 – Cup”, was organized under the motto „Together for Football”.

Beside Romania, teams of Soldiers from Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain were part of the tournament, organized by the Ministry of National Defence in Association with the Romanian Football Federation.

### Defence Minister's Visit to London

The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, had a meeting with the British Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon, during his official visit to London, on May 19.

The discussions focused on specific ways of intensifying bilateral defence cooperation within the Alliance with a view to preparing the agenda of NATO Summit in Warsaw. The two officials expressed their satisfaction for the cooperation between the two countries and the major role played by the Strategic Partnership between Romania and Great Britain in the present security environment.



Defence Minister Mihnea Motoc met with his British counterpart, Michael Fallon

They agreed on new action ways to intensify practical military cooperation, in fields such as force training and joint exercises. A special attention was given to the participation of the Romanian Armed Forces to the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), with Great Britain as framework nation in 2017.

Minister Mihnea Motoc and British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon discussed in-depth on the developments of the complex security context and ways of mutual support in preparing the agenda of NATO Summit in Warsaw, on 8-9 July. The need became apparent to strengthen the defence and deterrence posture of the Alliance against all risks and threats to European security. Minister Motoc stressed the strategic importance of the Black Sea, as integral part of the Euro-Atlantic security, emphasizing the need to consolidate the forward position of NATO forces along the entire Eastern flank of the Alliance. He presented the concrete initiatives launched by Romania in this respect and asked for British endorsement in allied and bilateral context.



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The Minister of National Defence, Mihnea Motoc, made an official visit to London, over May 18- 19, at the invitation of the British Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon.

### **Aegis Ashore Romania Inauguration**

A ceremony at Naval Support Facility Deveselu on Thursday, May 12, commemorated the operational certification of the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System (AAMDS)-Romania. Romanian officials and representatives of the U.S. Departments of Defense and State, the U.S. Naval Forces Europe and NATO participated in the event.

Following the ceremony, there were a short press availability and an opportunity to film the exterior of the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System Complex.

Additionally, there was an opportunity to receive BMD background briefings and on-the-record discussion with Frank Rose, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, and Ambassador Douglas Lute, U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, on May 11, in Bucharest.

On May 13, defence minister Mihnea Motoc participated, at the invitation of the Polish defence minister, Antoni Macierewicz, in the ceremony organized at the US Ballistic Missile Defense Base in Redzikowo, Poland. Later in the day, minister Motoc had a bilateral meeting with his Polish counterpart to have in-depth discussions on the agenda of NATO Warsaw Summit.



A ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System (AAMDS)-Romania

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## Reunion of the political directors from the Defence Ministries of NATO member countries

The Ministry of National Defence organized the Reunion of the political directors from the Defence Ministries of NATO member countries through April 25<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>, in Bucharest. The activity was headed by Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, and aimed at establishing the topics of the defence agenda for the upcoming Warsaw Summit, from July 8th-9th. Bilateral meetings with the allied states' delegations present at Bucharest also took place as part of the reunion agenda.

The main reunion agenda topics were debated, achieving progresses in coordinating the positions of the NATO member states on consolidating the Alliance defence and deterrence posture, the ways of strengthening NATO's forwarded military presence along the Eastern Flank, the security situation from the Black Sea Region, in countering hybrid threats as well as in increasing NATO-EU cooperation in this respect.

The activity served as an opportunity to outline the progresses achieved by Romania in implementing the Readiness Action Plan of the North-Atlantic Alliance and the national concerns on the complexity of the security situation from NATO's Eastern Flank, with focus on the Black Sea Region.



Ambassador Alexander Vershbow headed the reunion  
held in Bucharest