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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Members of the US Land Forces arrived in Romania

Special points of interests:

- Members of the US Land Forces arrived in Romania
- Infantry Troops from Craiova Prepare for a Mission in Poland
- Meeting of the Defence Minister with the Ambassadors of the USA and United Kingdom to Bucharest
- The Romanian Ministry of National Defence budget for 2017 – 2,18% of the GDP
- Official Visit of the Chief of General Staff in Great Britain
- The Chief of General Staff at the Meeting of NATO Military Committee



Unloading the equipment of the US troops at
“Mihail Kogalniceanu” Air Base in Constanța County

On Tuesday, February 14, soldiers of the US Land Forces in Europe unloaded their equipment at the “Mihail Kogalniceanu” Air Base in Constanța County, as part of the US commitment to ensure the security of the east flank of NATO, within the Atlantic Resolve Operation.

The about 500 US troops from the 1st Battalion, „Fighting Eagles” are equipped with M1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Paladin howitzers. They will carry out shooting exercises at the Secondary Center for Combat Training Smârdan and will participate in the multinational exercises planned to take place over the year together with Romanian Land Forces from the 284th Tanks Battalion “Cuza Vodă” and the 300th Mechanized Infantry Battalion “Sfântul Andrei”.



The US unit that arrived in Romania is part of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team that deployed about 3,500 soldiers and 2,800 pieces of equipment from Fort Carson, Colorado to Bremerhaven, Germany, at the beginning of January this year. The unit will be stationed in Romania for about nine months and will be replaced by another combat unit, which will ensure a persistent, continued, rotation based presence in Europe.

The deployment in Romania develops Romanian-American cooperation in terms of security, ensuring training opportunities that will improve interoperability and will enhance U.S. Army Europe's ability to rapidly respond to potential crises.

The development of the Romanian-American Partnership represents a major objective assumed at national level, both at political and military level. In this context, the rotational presence of the US forces on national territory and in the Black Sea area as well as the support given by the USA for the modernization of the national defence capabilities have an essential role in the current security context of the region.

Infantry Troops from Craiova Prepare for a Mission in Poland

Over 100 troops of the 2nd "Rovine" Infantry Brigade from Craiova prepare for a mission in Poland. They are to be deployed in the first half of the year for about six months.

A Romanian air-defence detachment, consisting of an anti-aircraft OERLIKON-type battery with maximum six pieces, will participate, in agreement with the commitments made by Romania after NATO Summit in Warsaw, in the consolidation of the augmented allied forward presence on the northern segment of the eastern flank.

At the same time, the framework was created to render operational the Multinational Brigade, based on the structure of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Craiova, in which Poland will be also involved with a company.

The troops from Craiova have a solid experience in theaters of operations, based on the many missions carried out in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Western Balkans. The brigade has modern combat weapon systems, which will ensure the full compatibility and interoperability with the allied structures.

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Meeting of the Defence Minister with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bucharest

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leş, met with Paul Brummel, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bucharest, at the defence ministry, on Monday, February 13.

The talks focused on the stage and perspectives of intensifying defence cooperation, both at bilateral level and within the Alliance. The two officials expressed similar positions on the allied steps taken to speed up the

process of implementing the decisions made at NATO Summit in Warsaw, especially strengthening the defence and deterrence posture of the Alliance.

They also discussed NATO VJTF and the British contribution to ensuring the forward presence along the eastern flank of NATO, including its southern segment and the Black Sea region. Minister Leş expressed the high appreciation of the Romanian authorities for the participation of the British troops in the exercises conducted at the Black Sea, in the training and Air Police missions in Romania, especially the intended deployment of Typhoon fighters of the Royal Air Force in the middle of the year.

They also reviewed the landmarks of bilateral cooperation within the Strategic Partnership, when they discussed new lines of action meant to intensify the practical military cooperation between the two armed forces. The two officials stressed the essential role played, in the current security context, by the multinational exercises conducted in Romania and at the Black Sea as well as technical and military cooperation.



Meeting of the Romanian defence minister with the
ambassador of the UK to Bucharest

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The Minister of National Defence Met the US Ambassador

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel-Beniamin Leș, received the US Ambassador, Hans Klemm, at the defence ministry, on Friday, January 27.

During this first meeting, the two officials discussed recent developments of the regional and international security environment as well as intensifying defence cooperation at bilateral level and within the Alliance.

Minister Leș spoke of the strategic priorities of the government in terms of defence and security deriving from the pledge to ensure 2 percent of the GDP for defence. He also emphasized the importance of the US Strategic Partnership for Romania. The defence minister said he appreciated the solid US commitment and the presence of the US troops in our country, highlighting the importance of the US involvement in strengthening defence and the deterrence of all threats and risks to European security, especially along the eastern flank of the Alliance.

Gabriel-Beniamin Leș spoke of implementing the decisions made at Warsaw Summit, mainly on NATO forward presence on the eastern flank, emphasizing the importance of intensifying the efforts to implement the decisions taken in this respect efficiently and timely. In this context he reiterated the importance of the Black Sea for the Euro-Atlantic stability and security.

Ambassador Klemm thanked for Romania's essential contribution to the regional and international security, highlighting the operational efforts of the Romanian military in Afghanistan, Iraq and the other theaters of operations. The ambassador reiterated the pledge of the authorities in Washington to consolidate the defence dimension of the Strategic Partnership that should result in an increased American presence in the region and intensifying the bilateral programs on training and exercises.



Official talks between Defence Minister, Gabriel-Beniamin Leș
and the US Ambassador, Hans Klemm

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The Romanian Ministry of National Defence budget for 2017 – 2,18% of the GDP

The Ministry of National Defence budget for 2017 is in accordance with the provisions of the National Political Agreement on the increase of the funds allocated for defence, the percent adopted consisting in 2,18% of the GDP, announced a press release issued by the Information and Public Relations Directorate.

Thus, according to the documents published on the Ministry of Finance official website, the MoND has been allocated 11.022232 billion lei from the state budget, the sum representing 1.35% of the GDP (sum made up from the budget credits-in amount of 10,620560 billion lei representing 1.30% of the GDP, with more than 40 million lei than the budget execution on 2016) and the MoND own revenues, amounting to 401.672 million lei.

According to Art.27 of the above mentioned draft law, the committed credits in amount of 7.632 million lei-representing 0.93% of the GDP- add up to 11.022232 million lei. This value enables the ministry to initiate the major procurement programs of the Romanian Armed Forces.

The total budget amounts to 18.654232 million lei, representing 2.18 % of the GDP.

The amount allocated will be translated into modern and interoperable combat equipment that will equip the armed forces so that they can accomplish the assigned missions and the commitments signed with NATO, EU and our strategic partners, in accordance with the defence planning papers and the governing program.

Official Visit of the Chief of General Staff in Great Britain

General Nicolae Ciucă, the chief of General Staff, made an official visit to London, at the invitation of his British counterpart, over January 22 to 24.

They discussed topics related to bilateral military relations and their perspectives, the European security environment and Air Police training. The two officials also discussed VJTF 17 (Very High Readiness Joint Task Force) certification exercise, British involvement in accomplishing the eFP – enhanced Forward Presence and the tFP - tailored Forward Presence on NATO eastern flank and the initiative concerning the naval presence at the Black Sea.

The visit to London in the current Euro-Atlantic security environment was an opportunity to develop and promote military relations, including projects at allied level, such as rendering operational the Multinational Brigade in Craiova, with a view to accomplishing the assumed commitments.

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The Chief of General Staff at the Meeting of NATO Military Committee

General Nicolae Ciucă, the chief of General Staff, participated in the 176th session of NATO Military Committee in Brussels, over 17 and 18 January.

The meeting agenda included military topics such as Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan as well as the current challenges and threats to the Alliance. They also met in NATO partnerships format with Ukraine and Georgia and with their Mediterranean Dialogue and Interoperability Platform counterparts.

The Military Committee meets twice a year at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, at the level of Chiefs of Defence to discuss NATO operations and missions and provide guidelines to strengthen deterrence and defence and projecting stability and the long-term adaptation of the Alliance.