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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**The chief of General Staff met with the Chairman of
the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the USA**

Special points of interests:

- The chief of General Staff met with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the USA
- The Romanian Defence Minister participated in the NATO Defence Ministers Meetings, in Brussels
- The procurement of the F-16 aircraft-one of the topics on the meeting agenda between the defence ministers of Romania and Portugal
- Defence ministers discussed ways of strengthening bilateral dialogue in the field of defence
- The Romanian and Polish defence ministers talked about intensifying the strategic partnership between Romania and Poland
- The increased presence of the British soldiers in Romania-one of the main topics on the meeting agenda
- The Romanian and Croatian defence ministers talked about the necessity of the exchange of experience with the acquisition of the multirole aircraft F-16



General Nicolae Ciucă and
General Joseph F. Dunford jr.

General Nicolae Ciucă, the chief of General Staff met with General Joseph F. Dunford jr., the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the USA, on Tuesday, February 21st.

Among the topics tackled during the meeting were the importance of the Black Sea for the European and international security, Romania's position and its role as a security provider, the American commitments with respect to assuring the Eastern Flank of the Alliance, the US-Romania cooperation in the theaters of operations, the Romanian armed forces' modernization programs and ways of supporting these programs.

The meeting focused on identifying ways of continuing the integration and synchronization of the training efforts at national level with the US and NATO regional initiatives and the participation

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in projects such as: the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI), Operation “ATLANTIC RESOLVE” (OAR), rendering the Multinational Division South-East (MDN-SE HQ) operational, making the NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) functional, and modernizing the Romanian Armed Forces. Also, Romania’s ongoing exercises and initiatives regarding the tailored Forward Presence which contributes to the strengthening of the Alliance’s Eastern Flank were brought into discussion.

“The meeting with the American counterpart was an opportunity to debate on ways of developing the Romanian-American strategic partnership, which is a major national objective”, General Ciucă pointed out. At the end of the meeting, the chief of General Staff expressed his appreciation for the support given by the American partner, in the context of NATO reassurance measures.

General Nicolae Ciucă, the chief of General Staff, makes a working visit in the United States, over February 19 to 25. During his visit, General Ciucă is scheduled to participate in a symposium of the Special Operations Forces, organized by the Global Special Operations Forces Foundation between February 20th–23th. During the symposium, the chief of General Staff participates in the talks about adapting Special Forces to the new security challenges and to delivers a presentation on “Transforming Special Operations Forces – Romanian Army’s strategic priority”.

During the symposium, the chief of General Staff will participate in the talks about adapting Special Forces to the new security challenges and will also deliver a presentation on “Transforming Special Operations Forces – Romanian Army’s strategic priority”.

The Romanian Defence Minister participated in the NATO Defence Ministers Meetings, in Brussels

Defence Minister, Gabriel-Beniamin Leș, participated in the Defence Ministers Meetings which were held at NATO Headquarters from Brussels, through 15-16 February.

The reunion focused on the implementation status of the Warsaw Summit and decisions were taken on main topics listed on the agenda of the **future** defence ministerial which will also take place in Brussels, this year. During the talks, the allied



NATO Defence Ministers Meetings in Brussels

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defence ministers restated their increased attention given to the consolidation of the defence and deterrence posture on the Eastern and Southern flanks of the Alliance.

The reunion agenda also included subjects of utmost importance for the Euro-Atlantic security, with focus on the assessment of NATO's capability to adapt to different types of threats, the transatlantic partnership, defence funding and equitable assumption of responsibilities, increase of NATO responsibilities in the international efforts in order to project stability, and evaluation of the cooperation initiatives between NATO and Georgia.

As part of the defence ministerial, the Romanian official also participated in the Global Coalition meeting against Daesh, organized at the initiative of the US Defence Secretary James Mattis.

The minister of national defence, Gabriel-Beniamin Leș, had a series of meetings with his allied counterparts with a view of intensifying the dialogue in the field of defence, both on bilateral cooperation area and on NATO's topics of current interest.

The procurement of the F-16 aircraft-one of the topics on the meeting agenda between the defence ministers of Romania and Portugal



The Minister of National Defence Gabriel Leș and his
Portuguese Counterpart José Alberto Azeredo Lopes

On Wednesday, February 15, defence minister Gabriel Leș, had a meeting with his Portuguese counterpart, José Alberto Azeredo Lopes. Topics of reciprocal interests were approached during the meeting with focus on the ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of defence as well as cooperation within NATO.

Also, the two officials agreed upon the increase of cooperation between the

Romanian and Portuguese armed forces in the field of Cyber Defence, CBRN, aeronautical medicine and multinational exercises which are to be thoroughly discussed in the future reunion of the mixed committee made up of representatives of the two defence ministries.

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The Romanian defence minister emphasized the national efforts made to assure NATO's enhanced forward presence on Romania's territory and at the Black Sea and thanked his Portuguese counterpart for the significant participation in rendering operational the Multinational Brigade from Craiova.

At the same time, minister Gabriel-Beniamin Leș expressed his appreciation for the effort and support offered by the Portuguese partner in running the F-16 aircraft procurement program and in the training process of the military pilots and maintenance personnel, restating his intention to continue the joint effort in the Air Force field.

Defence ministers discussed ways of strengthening bilateral dialogue in the field of defence

On Wednesday, February 15, in Brussels, defence minister Gabriel Leș, had a bilateral meeting with his Georgian counterpart, Levan Izoria. The exchange of opinions focused on ways of enhancing bilateral dialogue in the field of defence, the recent evolution of the regional security situation and the cooperation between NATO and Georgia.

Gabriel Leș reiterated our country's support with respect to Georgia's aspirations in becoming a NATO and EU member. From this perspective, the Romanian minister praised the progresses made by Georgia in the field of the defence reform and its significant participation in the Alliance's efforts with a view of consolidating regional and international security and stability, especially in Afghanistan.

The significant progresses made in implementing NATO- Georgia package were acknowledged by the Romanian delegation. In this respect, minister Leș assured his Georgian counterpart of Romania's forceful commitment in this respect as well as supporting the Georgian armed forces to achieve interoperability with the allied ones.

The interlocutors restated their support in continuing the bilateral relations in the field of defence, especially by participating in multinational exercises and other practical activities meant to train the military personnel.



Defence Minister's Meeting with his Georgian Counterpart

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The evolution of the security situation from the Black Sea area and NATO's role in this region were tackled during the talks.

The Romanian and Polish defence ministers talked about intensifying the strategic partnership between Romania and Poland

As part of the NATO Defence Ministers Meetings, minister Gabriel Leş had a bilateral meeting with his Polish counterpart, Antoni Macierewicz, on Wednesday, February 15.

The meeting was an opportunity to increase dialogue on the Strategic Partnership between Romania and Poland on bilateral cooperation both in the field of defence and within NATO.

The Romanian defence minister emphasized the importance of coordinating the efforts in order to implement the Warsaw Summit decisions, especially with respect to NATO's enhanced forward presence on the territory of both countries. In this respect, both parties agreed upon intensifying military contacts to ensure the respecting of the commitments made to the allied structures hosted by Romania and Poland, consisting in military units and staff officers. The two ministers highlighted the commitment of making maximum use of the Strategic Partnership framework in order to intensify relations in the field of defence (especially by participating in multinational exercises and other force training activities) as well as in the fields of military intelligence, air force and ballistic missile defence. Poland restated its commitment to deploy to our country certain combat aircraft in order to participate in air policing missions and joint training activities with the Romanian Air Force. In this respect, the increased collaboration between the two countries' NATO Centers of Excellence was emphasized.

The Polish defence minister welcomed his counterpart's invitation of paying an official visit to Romania this spring in order to talk about the bilateral cooperation projects.



Defence Minister's Meeting with his Polish Counterpart

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The increased presence of the British soldiers in Romania-one of the main topics on the meeting agenda



Romanian and British defence ministers

On Thursday, February 16, at Brussels, defence minister Gabriel Leș met with the British Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Fallon. The meeting took place as part of the NATO Defence Ministerial and focused on the ways of consolidating bilateral relations in the field of defence, within the Strategic Partnership between Great Britain and Romania.

The Romanian defence minister emphasized the enhanced dialogue at political and military levels and the increased number and quality of the joint cooperation activities with the British armed forces. Also, the minister thanked the British soldiers for their significant participation within the multinational exercises which are conducted in Romania, in all three operational fields-ground, air and maritime. The Romanian official appreciated the constant and significant support offered by Great Britain in the implementation of the commitments adjacent to NATO's forwarded presence in Romania and the Black Sea region, expressing the wish that this support be continued throughout year 2017. The British Secretary of State for Defence restated London's solid commitment with respect to intensifying practical military

cooperation with Romania by focusing on training and multinational exercises, defence intelligence, logistics and technical-military cooperation. Also, he emphasized the strategic significance of the increased British land force presence in the exercises organized in Romania, of the British naval capabilities in the Black Sea region and the deployment of the Typhoon aircraft of the Royal Armed Forces at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base, this year, in order to participate in the air policing missions to secure the Southern flank of the Alliance as well as in other joint training activities with the Romanian Air Force.

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**The Romanian and Croatian defence ministers talked about
the necessity of the exchange of experience with the acquisition
of the multirole aircraft F-16**

On the second day of NATO Defence Ministerial in Brussels, the Romanian Defence Minister, Gabriel Leș, had a bilateral meeting with his Croatian counterpart, Damir Krstičević, with an agenda that had as a main topic the ways of intensifying defence cooperation.

The defence minister spoke of the need to resume the political and military dialogue at a higher level between our countries and the importance of the practical military cooperation at the level of all military services. The Romanian official highlighted the cooperation within regional organizations and invited the Croatian military to take part in the multinational exercises planned to be conducted in Romania.

The Croatian side emphasized that it endorses the development of defence cooperation and showed interest in us sharing the Romanian experience with the acquisition of the multirole aircraft F-16. It was then established that a Croatian delegation make a visit in Romania in order to be briefed on how the program was conducted and how the specific infrastructure should be modernized.



Minister Gabriel Leș and the Croatian Defence Minister,
Damir Krstičević