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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

Communications and Information System NATO Exercise
“STEADFAST COBALT 2019”

Special points of interests:

- Communications and Information System NATO Exercise “STEADFAST COBALT 2019”
- The Chairman of the American-Romanian Business Council, on official visit to the Ministry of National Defence
- State Secretary Nicolae Nasta, at the Brussels Reunions
- Certification of the Italian detachment, at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base



Opening ceremony of Exercise Steadfast Cobalt 2019

Steadfast Cobalt 2019, the largest communications and information system NATO exercise, takes place over 19 May-2 June, at the 48 Strategic Communications and Information Technology Center from Otopeni.

Over 1200 Romanian and foreign soldiers from 35 NATO Communications and Information Technology Structures participate in the exercise, whose goal is to test, check and validate the interoperability of the C4ISR system (Command, Control, Communications and Information Technology, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance).

Steadfast Cobalt 2019 was planned by the Supreme Allied Command Europe and is led by the Commander of NATO CIS Group (NCISG), Major General Wolfgang Renner.

The goal of the exercise is to jointly train in order to offer multinational support during NATO operations and to practice standard operating procedures required to reach interoperability in the field of human resources and technical field.

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Communications and Information System NATO Exercise STEADFAST COBALT 2019 is conducted annually. This year our country hosts the exercise for the second time. The Exercise was organized for the first time in 2016, at the headquarters of 48 Strategic Communications and Information Technology Center.

The Chairman of the American-Romanian Business Council, on official visit to the Ministry of National Defence

Defence Minister Gabriel Leş, received the Chairman of the American-Romanian Business Council, Eric Stewart, at the MoND Headquarters.

The officials talked about the excellent relations between the two countries in the field of security and defence, Minister Leş appreciating the fact that the development of the Strategic Partnership with the USA represents an important goal of Romania's Government, "this proving essential for an efficient response to the challenges generated by the regional and international security environment".



Defence Minister Gabriel Leş together with the Chairman of the American-Romanian Business Council, Eric Stewart

Taking into account that 2019 is the third consecutive year when the defence budget represents 2% of the GDP, the defence minister expressed the wish for new cooperation opportunities as well as for the increase and expansion of the US investments in the Romanian defence industry.

Also, minister Leş appreciated AMRO initiative with regard to the organization of the second defence Romania-USA Forum. The first such forum was organized last year, with the participation of the Republic of Moldova.

Another topic on the talks agenda was the increased cooperation in the field of industrial cooperation at the EU level, minister Leş emphasizing the fact that the involvement of the US companies in the building of the European industrial defence architecture is important.

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State Secretary Nicolae Nasta, at the Brussels Reunions

State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, Nicolae Nasta, participated, in the Foreign Affairs Council and the working sessions of EDA's Steering Committee, at Brussels, over 13-14 May.

During the reunion between the foreign affairs and defence ministers from the EU member states and their counterparts from the G5 Sahel Group (Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad), Nicolae Nasta emphasized the support offered by Romania by participating in the UN and EU-led missions, the involvement in the on-going reconstruction and stabilization programmes from this region as well as our country's contribution to MINUSMA Mission from Mali, starting with November 2019.

As part of the FAC Reunion, the 21 member states signed, together with the European defence Agency, the Agreement "Optimizing Cross Border Movement Permission in Europe" on the optimization of the procedures for getting the border-crossing approval to Europe, which will facilitate the process of granting military trans-frontier permission in the aerial and ground fields.

The goal of signing this agreement is that, by year 2020, the member states harmonize their national regulations, procedures and border-crossing approval timelines. The programme implements an important part of the "Action Plan on Military Mobility", which was presented by the EU's High Representative, Federica Mogherini, to the European Parliament Commission and Council, in March 2018.

At the High Representative Invitation, the defence ministers got together at a working breakfast and approached subjects referring to the cooperation between the European Union and NATO, especially the countering of hybrid threats and the status of the joint actions conducted by the two organizations based on EU-NATO Joint Declaration, adopted in July 2018.

Another topic of the reunion agenda was the evolution of the PESCO process and other subjects of common interest such as investments in the defence field and importance of the collaborative projects.

The implementation of the defence initiatives and aspects related to the general budget for year 2019 and 2020 will be discussed during the working sessions of the EDA Steering Committee.



State Secretary Nicolae Nasta
signing the agreement

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Certification of the Italian detachment, at Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base

The certification ceremony of the Italian detachment that will execute the enforced air-policing mission took place in the presence of the defence minister Gabriel Leş, on 14 May, in 57 Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base.

The Italian detachment made up of approximately 130 soldiers (pilots and technical personnel) and four Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, will conduct air-policing missions over the next four months together with Romanian Air Force soldiers (with MiG-21 LanceRs), under NATO command.



Officials attending the certificate ceremony of the Italian detachment at
Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base