

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011****Issue no. 8**

# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

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**Handing Over the Colours of the Land Forces Staff**

## Special points of interests:

- **Handing Over the Colours of the Land Forces Staff**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (posthumous) Constantin-Laurentiu Lixandru – a hero fallen on duty in Afghanistan**
- **The Romanian Chief of General Staff participated in NATO's Military Committee**
- **War Veterans' Day**



The Chief of Land Forces Staff, Brigadier Ariton Ioniță, taking over the Colours of the Land Forces Staff

The Minister of National Defence Mr. Gabriel Oprea handed over the Colours of the Land Forces Staff during a ceremony organized at the Memorial of Romanian soldiers killed on duty, on Wednesday, April 27, starting 12.30 hrs.

On the same day, the Land Forces Day is celebrated, under the patronage of St. George, the dragon slayer, there were wreath-laying ceremonies organized for this occasion at the Infantry, Artillery and Engineers Memorials in Bucharest. Starting 20.30 hrs., a retreat ceremony with torches was conducted on the following route: National Defence University - Cotroceni Blvd. - Iuliu Maniu Blvd. - Vasile Milea Blvd. – Land Forces Staff HQ.

Wreath-laying ceremonies were organized at Memorials in garrisons across the country during the week, other activities evoking Land Forces military traditions as well as military exhibitions. The events were attended by representatives of the defence ministry, local authorities, reserve and retired military personnel.

Over 1700 Land Forces troops celebrated their service day at home, in the theaters of operations in the Western Balkans and Afghanistan.

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (Posthumous) Constantin-Laurentiu Lixandru – a hero fallen on duty in Afghanistan



2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (posthumous) Constantin-  
Laurentiu Lixandru

On Thursday, May 5, Corporal Constantin Laurentiu-Lixandru was killed on duty in Zabul Province, Afghanistan.

According to procedures, the soldier was carrying out a land reconnaissance mission while patrolling on A1 Highway. Attacked with an improvised explosive device, the Corporal was seriously wounded and immediately evacuated to the military hospital in Lagman to receive medical care. Despite the efforts made by the medical staff in order to save his life, the Corporal died. He was married and had no children.

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, signed the promotion order to the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (posthumous) of Corporal Constantin-Laurentiu Lixandru who made the supreme sacrifice under the National Colours proving remarkably devotion during the missions carried out in Afghanistan TO.

Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, has also submitted to the President of Romania a resolution of awarding 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lieutenant (posthumous) Constantin-Laurentiu Lixandru with the “Steaua Romaniei” National Order in rank of Cavalier, for military, with war insignia.

On Friday, May 6, at 08.00 hours, military units across the country organized military and religious ceremonies as a token of appreciation and full respect for Hero Constantin-Laurentiu Lixandru.

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, and the leading staff of the Armed Forces expressed their deep sorrow for this loss and for the hard-stricken family.

Another incident happened in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, few days ago, on Sunday, May 1, at about 05.30 hrs. A Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle of the 26<sup>th</sup> "Neagoe Basarab"



Military and religious ceremony at the MoND HQ for the hero  
Constantin-Laurentiu Lixandru



Infantry Battalion was ambushed with an improvised explosive device while on mission on the A1 highway. Despite the large quantity of explosive used in the attack, that caused the vehicle to upset, the high level of protection offered by its armor saved the lives of the Romanian soldiers in the vehicle.

During the explosion that caused the vehicle to roll over, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Olteanu, MSgt. Marius Apostol and Corporal Daniel Riza were injured but they are in a stable condition while the fourth soldier in the vehicle, who suffered minor bruises, resumed his activity at Lagman Base.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Olteanu, MSgt. Marius Apostol and Corporal Daniel Riza were taken to the Military Hospital in Kandahar for further investigations and specialized treatment.

The Minister of National Defence, the military leadership are permanently updated on the health condition of the injured soldiers.

### **The Romanian Chief of General Staff participated in NATO's Military Committee**

The Chief of General Staff, Major General Stefan Danila, participated in NATO's Military Committee (MC) in Chiefs of Defence Staff (CHODs) session that met at NATO HQ on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

The Chiefs of Defence met with the Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, with Ukraine and Georgia in separate sessions, as well as with ChODs of countries contributing to NATO operations in Libya and Afghanistan.

For the first time since NATO took command and control of Operation Unified Protector in Libya, CHODs had a chance to evaluate operational progress, together with NATO's two Strategic Commanders Adm. Jim Stavridis (SACEUR) and Gen. Stéphane Abrial (SACT) and JFC Naples Commander Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III.

Under the chairmanship of Adm. Giampaolo Di Paola, the talks focused on Transition and the long-term perspective on Afghanistan.

During the talks with his counterparts, Major General Stefan Danila presented the stage and perspective of Romanian Armed Forces transformation, Romania's contribution to NATO-led operations and ways of enhancing bilateral military cooperation.



The Chiefs of Defence Staff

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**War Veterans` Day**

The Ministry of National Defence and the National Association of War Veterans celebrated the War Veterans` Day in Bucharest and garrisons across the country on Friday, April 29.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Military ceremonies were organized in Bucharest and wreath were laid on behalf of the defence minister, the Ministry of National Defence and the National Association of War Veterans at the Unknown Soldier`s Tomb, at the Memorial of Romanian Military Heroes Killed on Duty, Ghencea Military Cemetery and the Memorial of WW2 Heroes.

War Veterans` Day, celebrated annually on April 29, was established by Government Decision 1222/2007.



Memorial of WW2 Heroes