

ROMANIAN DEFENCE 2018





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Romanian Armed Forces *today*

Dear Allies and Partners,

It is a great privilege for me to provide our readers with an overview of the current missions and challenges of the Romanian Armed Forces, in the context of the Romanian Centennial Anniversary, and to highlight the efforts the entire MoND's personnel, both military and civilian, make in order to fulfill their responsibilities enshrined in the Romanian Constitution: *safeguarding the population against any type of threats and maintaining the territorial integrity of the country.*

First of all, I would like to start by taking a moment to honor the fallen heroes who gave their lives in the battles, both in the two world conflagrations, and in the past and current theaters of operations, such as Iraq, Afghanistan and the Western Balkans. Their memory will serve as an example for the future generations that peace and stability is not given by default but is something that needs to be constantly worked at and contributed to, be it as individual nation or as part of alliances and strategic partnerships worldwide. We will continue to honor their memory not only by celebrating our Centennial but also in the decades to come. We should keep a candle lit in our souls for those who gave their ultimate sacrifice, which is their life in exchange for freedom and independence.

Moreover, I will attempt to portray the current security context and how Romania, alongside NATO and its Strategic Partners, are taking measures to increase security on the Eastern flank of the Alliance, while consistently contributing to the rest of the NATO missions and operations.

We are now witnessing an unprecedentedly complex security environment. New and old hybrid, conventional and asymmetric threats are combined and intertwined from the Baltic Sea region, to the Black Sea area, the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and from non-state actors or failed states, as it is the case of the arch of instability and turmoil across a large part of the Middle East and North Africa.

The Ukraine crisis is the living proof that conflict in Europe is not a phenomenon of the past anymore.



The illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation pronouncedly affected international law and international order and it actively worked against our values and interests. Moreover, Russia's build-up military posture and aggressive attitude has been constantly recorded over the last years, with a heavyweight impact mainly on the Eastern flank of the Alliance.

Thus the strategic weight of the Black Sea is now even more enhanced as a consequence of the recent security situation and Romania, together with its Allies and Partners in the Black Sea region, has been keeping a watchful eye on military strategic developments in this region, at the same time taking concrete steps alongside our Strategic Partners for the consolidation of a defense and deterrence posture, within the North-Atlantic Alliance.

This requires constant and profound adaptations and, as a consequence, a dynamic approach, to which Romania contributed in a very consistent matter. The last three NATO Summits that followed the Ukraine crisis comprised various degrees of decisive measures to consolidate an Alliance ready for the challenges

of the future. And Romania was part of all of them: after the Wales Summit in 2014, Romania offered to host a division-level headquarters to be established on its territory (Multinational Division South-East – *HQ MND-SE*) as part of the Readiness Action Plan – *RAP*; after the Warsaw Summit in 2016, Romania continued with a more consolidated approach as part of the tailored Forward Presence (tFP) consisting in the building of a brigade-level and a force integration command (Multinational Brigade South-East – *MN-BDESE*, NATO Force Integration Unit – *NFIU*), an enhanced Allied air and maritime presence in the Black Sea region, a regional Allied training initiative – Combined Joint Enhanced Training – *CJET*, while actively contributing to the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in Poland; after the 2018 Brussels Summit, Romania offered to host an army corps-level command, in order to integrate and better conduct operations of all the Allied forces and capabilities deployed and emplaced in the Southern part of the NATO's Eastern flank.

Last but not least, let me focus on some aspects that I find very important to highlight here, given the context I have tried to portray above. After decades of shrinking defense budgets, for the first time since the Cold War, NATO allies have stopped the downward spiral in defense spending. Romania's vision remains coherent with this approach, since we are more than convinced that we have to take defense seriously and to reflect this in our spending decisions in order to create an effective defense and deterrence posture in the Eastern flank.

Romania's response was fast and clear as the Government I am part of allocated 2% of GDP for defense for the second year and we have the same target of 2% of GDP within an already committed decade. Beginning with 2017 and based on an adequate budget that allowed a qualitative approach to defence

procurement, Romania has achieved a real and measurable progress in terms of important equipment acquisition for speeding up the modernization process of the Armed Forces. Thus, the Armed Forces' modernization consolidates our role in the region. The significant resources allocated for procurement maintains Romania in the top 3 of the Alliance's members, with about 35% of the total budget.

The acquisition programs will result in significant capability building with state-of-the-art equipment (seven PATRIOT systems, three HIMARS, 227 Piranha 5 APCs, four multifunctional corvettes, coastal defense missile systems, multifunctional-wheeled platforms, and the continuation of the multirole aircraft program).

The philosophy of the Romanian Government is to reinvest as much as possible in the development of the national defense industry. Our medium and long – term objectives reside in the decision to reinforce the Romanian economy through different actions and concrete steps, such as investments, know-how and technological transfer into our national defense industry, as well as industrial cooperation and off-set.

All these government efforts are in the benefit of Romania, but also in the benefit of the entire Black Sea region. Nowadays it is very important to think our national strategies in a broader context, and this is exactly what Romania does right now.

In conclusion, Romania's strategic maturity relies on the responsibility to adequately commit resources for national defense in order to bolster regional security. Also, our Strategic Partnerships combined with the trans-Atlantic anchor of the North-Atlantic Organization, capitalize on Romania's strategic moment and relevance.

Mihai-Viorel FIFOR
Minister of National Defence

Managing the 21st Century Challenges and Threats

The Romanian Armed Forces are powerful due to their strong, professional, devoted and trained human resource, always ready to conduct joint military actions with the other allied member and partner states!

In recent times, more and more young people, either students or servicemen in their early career, succeeded in scoring outstanding results, increasing efficiency and performance levels in the military system through their will, ambition and dedication. Investing in the youth education — tomorrow's leaders and specialists, those who will determine the destiny of the Romanian Armed Forces — is one of the priority and essential objectives in the modernization process of the Romanian Military.

The combat equipment is no longer just a simple fighting vehicle but a complex computerized system, with radio connectivity, either digital or sensorial, while the weaponry is no longer a primary mechanical matter, as it was a century ago, but an integrated system which can be operated only when mastering very many abilities; that is why we can easily understand the necessity to reach to a better understanding of this complexity at all its levels: educational, training, operational and logistic support.

Our servicemen must be connected from the start to this technological progress so that, by the end of their studies, can be able to operate the new equipment, at the highest standards. The development of the fighter's specific skills, the collective training, team cohesion and interoperability have a special role when considering the importance of the interhuman communication at professional level.

The Romanian Armed Forces' participation during the last two years in most of the exercises organized at NATO level, both domestically and on the territory of the states neighbouring Romania, gave the Romanian servicemen the opportunity to gain valuable professional experience, which proved very useful while transforming, rendering operational and increasing the



interoperability of the Romanian Armed Forces with the NATO and EU member states' ones.

In 2017, Noble Jump 17, NATO's biggest exercise and Saber Guardian, led by USAREUR, tested the interoperability level of the Romanian soldiers within NATO's force elements, and the execution of the military actions at multinational, combined and joint levels.

This year, Multinational Division South-East reached its full operational capability, while the series of exercises such as Dacian Eagle, Dacian Lancer 18, organized by the Multinational Division South-East in Cincu, the Black Sea Rotational Force 18 training modules led by the US Infantry Marine Corps Forces Europe, Sea Shield 18 Exercise, a NATO exercise conducted by the Romanian Naval Forces on the Alliance Southern and Eastern flanks, BALTOPS 18 Exercise, the biggest joint-type exercise conducted in Northern Europe, offered the Romanian servicemen the opportunity to exercise

their skills in planning, organizing and conducting the training activity in the ground, air and maritime environments.

The air policing service provided in partnership with the British and Canadian Air Forces strengthened the cooperation relations and, at the same time, effectively contributed to the collective effort in managing the threats against Euro-Atlantic security and to the strengthening of the deterrence and defence posture of the Eastern flank of the Alliance.

The increase of Special Operations Forces' training level has already been noticed. The Special Operations Forces (SOF) stand for a valuable strategic instrument which can be used for "surgical actions", in the entire spectrum of military operations but especially in the hybrid-type conflicts generated by the current security environment. Their training process is as important as their equipping with specific weaponry. The efficiency of the SOF is tightly connected with the capacity to adapt and become interoperable with the military intelligence structures and the other niche capabilities, as well as to the integration and coordination with the other allied or partner states' structures.

All these actions conducted abroad by the Romanian military personnel significantly support the efforts the Romanian military makes in order to prove a credible ally, a responsible actor in the region, which considerably and methodically contributes to maintaining security and stability both at European level and within the North-Atlantic Alliance.

The Romanian Armed Forces took important steps at all levels! I would say that this is just the beginning, that the process is a coherent and long-lasting one

and we must accept that each of us has to contribute, from our position. Only this way we'll succeed in transforming the Romanian military system into a modern and interoperable one that will meet the future security environment requirements.

One cannot talk about the Romanian military just referring to it as a standalone structure; it needs to be integrated into the national defence, public order and national security system but also into a wider security context which includes NATO-EU complex complementary issues. I would like to emphasize that, by developing the concept of inter-institutionalism, we'll fully succeed in planning and conducting actions that can face the security challenges and risks specific to the 21st century.

Based on solidarity, the Alliance cohesion and security indivisibility, NATO represents the foundation of a powerful collective defence and essential forum for consultations on security matters and decision-making among allies.

Strategic partnerships and Romania's membership to NATO and EU are essential for our country's security and prosperity and significantly contribute to the European security and defence.

The Romanian Armed Forces will continue in the same line of effort to upgrade and consolidate its combat capability with a view of defending its national and rule of law values and respecting the commitments made by our country at international level.

General Nicolae-Ionel CIUCĂ
Chief of General Staff

The Centennial of the Great Union



This year we celebrate the Centennial of the Great Union or a hundred years since the establishment of Greater Romania. This year will abound in major events, from the perspective of remembering the efforts of the Romanian historical provinces in order to find their lost or cancelled identity and join the Old Kingdom and culminating with the Great National Assembly from Alba Iulia, as of December 1st, 1918.

It is another year when 2% of the GDP will be dedicated to the procurement of defence modern equipment, a year of changes and reforms, of equitable regulations in the military and civilian personnel payment and compensation system, when the importance of the human resource will be rethought. It is important that the acquisitions be made with the help of the national defence industry, by providing jobs to the Romanian citizens. Some suggest that 80% of the of military equipment be manufactured in our country and be stipulated by law.

Another side of the battlefield

The opening of the temporary exhibition *Cotidian life of the I World War* took place in Ferdinand I Room of the National Military Museum. Before you know it, the room became uncomfortably small for the public. Historians and museographers and specialists in the first world conflagration, together with people passionate about history or curious youth visiting the National Military Museum for their first time, witnessed such an exhibition, which offered a new vision of war: the daily life of the servicemen and the break-offs beyond the battlefield.

The exhibition's goal was to bring to the public's attention original aspects which normally did not make the object of military historical presentation. It was the only occasion to draw the public's attention to objects which were normally used by the soldiers on the battlefield. Aspects related to feeding, quarterage, free time spending, says the museographer Cristina Constantin. And then, we thought that the best way would be to do this by means of images, completed with valuable objects detained in the property of the museum: uniforms, letters, manuscripts, orders, decorations and weaponry.

The exhibition was dedicated to the participation of the Romanian Armed Forces to the fights conducted in the I World War, a historical event which commemorates one hundred years and adds to the military details exhibited in the Hall of Honor, as part of the exhibition; Romanian Army during the Great War, 1916-1918.

At the same time, in addition to the complete equipment of the troops, specific to each country participating in this conflict, the exhibition presents personal items pertaining to several personalities, such as: King Ferdinand, Generals August von Mackensen, Alexandu Averescu, Constantin Prezan, Henri Berthelot, Ioan Dragalina, Eremia Grigorescu, Second Lieutenant Ecaterina Teodoroiu and others.

The women are also displayed in the exhibition - Queen Mary's tunic and images of her during I World War, Ecaterina Teodoroiu, with her memoirs from the battlefield and General Dragalina's wife's letter addressed to her husband a month before he lost his life, in 1916.

The exhibition was organized in four sections, all related to the daily routine life. The first part was dedicated to the housing aspects, the second one offers details on the troops' feeding, the third one presents details on the medical support of the troops while the last part is dedicated to the spending of the free time and the important celebration in the life of the servicemen fighting during the war. At the opening ceremony of the event, the guests took the floor one after another. Thus, Colonel (ret) Petre Otu, Deputy Director of the Institute for Political Studies on Defence and Military History, emphasized the novelty brought by the exhibition: *"The study of the I World War was made from various perspectives. We mainly talked about commanders and strategic plans but seldom about the soldier, the one who constantly faced death on the battlefield. The National Military Museum, especially the group headed by Mrs. Cristina Constantin, should be congratulated because it succeeded in revealing the dramatic side of the conflagration. There are special perspectives which, somehow, offer a human side to the war."*



Colonel Ion Turcă focused his speech on the photos which make up the most considerable part of the exhibition: *"The photography does not picture the misery, the lice that swarmed onto the battlefield, the rats that filled the trenches. The photography will never reflect at its best the human suffering from the field hospitals. But it depicts an accurate image of the moments of the war."*

The Academic Professor Alin Ciupală, the chief of Modern History Department, from the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, gave a presentation on the exhibition from the historian perspective: *"The objects we can admire are primary sources for us and, that is why I think we must consider them as important as the documents we usually work with. When we study the archives, we are vain enough to believe that we understood what happened, that we penetrated the most intimate mechanisms of the events. And when we visit such an exhibition, we understand that we should show more humility, because the materiality of the past brought to our eyes by the objects is very important and completes the information revealed in the documentary sources."*

Besides the personalities who attended the event, the exhibition was very well received by the youth, who found out about the varnishing from the Facebook page of the museum. Florin Vlad Ioniță studies Medicine and came to the exhibition accompanied by his colleagues: *"I came to find out more about the history of our country. I haven't visited the military museum so far and I am really upset about this. I found here a part of the history I didn't know, very many items I have never seen"*. As a Medical student, he was very impressed by the sanitary part: *"They assumed risks at the moment of surgery because of the possible emerging infections. This made me think, but everything had a starting point. I think one needed a lot of strength to amputate with a saw, I don't know if I could have managed to do so"*, added the student.

Alina Burlacu, aged 32, is not at her first visit to the military museum: *"It is very interesting, nobody thinks at the living conditions of the soldiers, at their break-offs, which were so crucial for their morale. What I liked most in the exhibition were the pictures which showed the soldiers dancing hora."* The event ended with free talks.



March through history

The soldiers of 15th Mechanized Brigade *Războieni* Podu Înalt from Iași honored their predecessors who activated in the same unit, through several events organized to celebrate the Centenary of the Reunification, under the name of *The March of 15th Războieni Infantry Regiment 1917-2017*. The servicemen of 15th Războieni Mechanized Brigade organized the commemoration activities on Cireșoaia Hill, exactly in the place where, 100 years ago, hundreds of soldiers of 15th Războieni Infantry Regiment died on duty, in the reunification war. Back then, for a month, the Romanian soldiers fought like lions, succeeding in stopping the German and Austrian-Hungarian offensive, from Oituz. From the heights of Cireșoaia Hill, the nowadays soldiers perceived the heroism of the simple men, their spirit of sacrifice and the workmanship of the commanders who managed to bring to an end the enemy's advancement. The infantry soldiers from Războieni, together with the mountain troop specialists, the frontier guards, cavalry, artillerists and Russian servicemen spilt their blood on those heights. Cireșoaia, Coșna, and

Măgura Ocnei made history. The enemies couldn't go beyond these places! Many of those who fell on duty were buried in mass graves, which originally had birch wood crosses on their top, but which got lost, in time.

Thus, one hundred years later, the successors of 15th *Războieni* Infantry Regiment, the soldiers of 15th Mechanized Brigade, erected a stone cross in the memory of those fallen on duty, in those places.

Up, on Cireșoaia Hill, a military ceremony was organized in order to inaugurate the commemorative monument erected in the honor of the heroes of 15th *Războieni* Infantry Regiment. The activity was attended by the chief of Doctrine and Training Directorate, Brigadier General Dorin Blaiu, the commander of 15 Mechanized Brigade, Colonel Dragoș Iacob, unit commanders, war veterans, former commanders of military units from Iași and a numerous audience.

After the blessing of the cross dedicated to the heroes of 15th Infantry regiment and the sermon held by priests and other higher ranking church officials, allocutions were made to pay homage to the heroes who lost their lives in





➤ World War I scene

those places. The sermon was followed by an artistic moment performed by Iași Military Club collaborators.

We hope that, in the near future, a useable road can be made towards the battle place where one can better see the imprints of the trenches and the howitzers holes. There is a rehabilitation project so that the Romanians, and not only them, can see a place where the Romania soldiers spilt their blood.

The commemoration events organized by 15 Mechanized Brigade continued at the Palace of Culture from Iași, with the launching of two books. The first book presents the *History of Infantry Regiment no. 15* printed at Piatra Neamț in 1932 and 1917-2017 *Postume la centenar*, a collection of poetries written by officer Gheorghe Ante, on I World War battlefield. The manuscript and the original volume were found by the soldiers of 15 Mechanized Brigade, with the support of Neamț County Museum and of Mrs Aurica Ichim, Director of the Union Museum from Iași. The volumes comprises pieces of history, sensibility, pain and suffering which characterize war.

Colonel (ret) Ante's book is special because it depicts the cruel reality and suffering of the soldier fighting in the first line of the battlefield but also that of the Romanians hit by the wrath of war. Colonel (ret) Ante was second Lieutenant within the 15 Infantry Regiment, fought on the battles of Oituz, Târgu Ocna and Turda. He became company commander and then battalion commander. After the war, he had a solid contribution to the reestablishment of the Romanian University of Cluj and of the Opera. During II World War, he was commander of Neamț Military Garrison, holding the rank of colonel.

On September 14th, the Christians celebrate the Day of the Cross. On this occasion, another cross dedicated to the heroes fallen on duty in front of the 15 Infantry Brigade Headquarters (known as The Palace of the Army) was blessed. It is the twin cross of the one erected on Cireșoaia Hill. The Ceremony held in front of The Palace of the Army had the same significance and references as the one held

on Cireșoaia Hill. Thus, an arch over several hundreds of kilometers reminds the passengers of the sacrifice made by an entire generation of simple people but also of the genius of certain commanders who managed to successfully carry on Romania's name. The series of activities organized by 15 Mechanized Brigade ended with an extraordinary concert held by Iași Philharmonic, in front of The Palace of the Army. There were emotional and full of significance moments dedicated to the heroes who died on duty.

The scientific conference entitled *The Centenary of Romania*

On June 26th, the National Defence College, *Carol I* National Defence University, organized an international scientific conference entitled Strategies XXI on the topic: The Centenary of Romania. The event was attended by the General Secretary of the Ministry of National Defence, Codrin-Dumitru Munteanu, the Commandant of *Carol I* National Defence University, Brigadier General Gheorghe Calopăreanu and the Chief of National Defence College, Colonel Academic Professor Doina Mureșan and other personalities from the scientific, military and political fields. The activity was divided into three sections. The first, *1 December 1918-100 years since the establishment of the unified national state* consisted in scientific works which marked the celebration of a centenary since the Greater Union was achieved. During the following two sections entitled *Romania in the international relations system, at 100 years after the Greater Union* and the *Dynamics of National and International Security in the year of the Romanian Centenary*, the audience exchanged ideas, expressed own opinions and communicated on the latest results discovered following research activities.

On this occasion, Camelia Botezatu, Director of *Paideia* Publishing House, launched the catalogue *Emblematic Romania, the Centenary of the Greater Union 1918-2018*, which is part of the Emblematic Romania collection.

National Integrated Programme "HISTRIA"

National Integrated Program (NIP) "HISTRIA" represents the continuation of the collaboration initiated during strategic-level national exercise "HISTRIA 15", in full accordance with the guidelines of the "National Defence Strategy throughout 2015–2019" on the intensification and consolidation of inter-institutional cooperation.

The programme is planned and coordinated at the MoND level, through the Defence Staff, being developed with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the National Defense System institutions, respectively the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Romanian Intelligence Service, the Foreign Intelligence Service, The Protection and Guard Service and Special Telecommunications Service and aims at increasing the training level of the strategic, operative and tactical – level structures.

The Programme was planned and organized so that it meets the desired end state and ensures both an overall framework required to organize and conduct activities to avoid strategic surprise, during peacetime, and a hypothetical, semi-fictive one designed for the planning and gradual execution of the missions during siege, mobilization, wartime as well as in case of armed attack, with own security forces or with allied support.

NIP "HISTRIA" consists of a successive and sequential training process at inter-institutional process, the exercises being correlated, interconnected and synchronized in order to accomplish the common training objectives (for example: civil protection, public order, cyber defence, protection of dignitaries, HNS, mobilization, defence, etc).

The leading structures from strategic, operative and tactic levels were trained inter-institutionally during each stage of the most important exercises, with respect to the appliance of the SOPs, as well as the structures involved in the execution of specific tasks, as follows: in 2018, the structures were trained at strategic level, respectively the National Military Command Centre, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Defence System institutions and other structures with responsibilities in the field of defence, public order and national security.

The NIP "HISTRIA" enables the identification of the legislative harmonization requirements, the filling in of the inter-institutional cooperation documents and the review of joint action procedures in the field of defence, public order and national security.

PNI "HISTRIA" is a platform used to send certain strategic messages on the perception, image, visibility,



credibility and capability of the Romanian Armed forces in acting in an overall manner and planning its strategic actions in the period of gradual retort; it is also an opportunity to test the STRATCOM implementation methods, as a conjugated effort of the capabilities from the informational level (INFOOPS and PSYOPS), public diplomacy and information and public relations, in order to achieve strategic objectives.

Command Post Exercise (CPX) “HISTRIA 18”

The goal of the Command Post Exercise (CPX) “HISTRIA 18” is to validate the strategic-level structures, processes and procedures within the National Military Command Centre, in relationship with the operative-level structures of the National Defence System in order to coordinate efforts (at national level) to counteract the hybrid-type actions of the enemy by accomplishing the following goals:

- ensure necessary training framework to conduct national operations with a view of counteracting non-conventional (hybrid) actions effects on the national territory;
- ensure necessary training framework in order to test the National Defence System’s capability in accomplishing its specific tasks required to increase resilience of the institutions, infrastructure, population and resources in case of a hybrid-type threat;
- testing and validating the gradual engagement of the National Military Command Centre, Joint Forces Command, the Services Staffs (Land, Air and Naval) and of the Commands’ Operations Centres (Joint Logistic

Command, Communications and Information Systems Command, Special Operations Forces Command), building and enabling an integrated communications and information system at the level of the National Defence System institutions in order to integrate efforts and coherence of inter-institutional response.

The level of ambition, participation framework, goal and objectives of CPX “HISTRIA 18” are articulated in accordance with the guidelines of the “National Defence Strategy throughout 2015–2019”.

CPX “HISTRIA 18” is correlated (at operative level) with the bilateral Exercise ROU-USA JOINT RESOLVE 19 and, at tactical level, with Multinational Exercise SABER GUARDIAN 19 scheduled to take place in 2019.

„CONCORDIA 18” Exercise

„CONCORDIA 18” Exercise is a combined-type CPX/LIVEX conducted through 4–10 December 2018 in an extended area, which comprises Buzău, Bacău, Braşov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureş, and Cluj Counties.

The Exercise has an inter-institutional character, being preceded and connected with the activities/exercises of the military structures from the MoND, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Protection and Guard Service and Romanian Intelligence Service, planned to be conducted through April–December 2018.

The Exercise Commanding Officer is the Chief of Operations Directorate, in cooperation with the personnel designated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Protection and Guard Service and Romanian Intelligence Service.

The scenario is semi-fictive and refers to a hypothetical crisis situation. The situation and events are fictitious, and are not connected to the current geo-strategic situation and do not bring any prejudice to the dignity of any of the neighboring states.

The goal of the exercise is to practice the common action procedures of the National Defence System structures in support of the institutions abilities to maintain and restore constitutional order and train the PSYOPS, CIMIC, SOF, ISR, Mountain Troops and air force structures as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Protection and Guard Service and Romanian Intelligence Service structures in order to counteract hostile nonconventional – type actions.

The exercise aims at:

- consolidating and enhancing inter-institutional collaboration;
- validating/identifying the cooperation protocols/plans with the National Defence System structures which need to be reviewed;
- checking on the functionality of the system designated to perform data and information exchange;
- exercising the procedures of conducting joint actions by the National Defence System forces with a view of maintaining and reestablishing constitutional order.



Allied Forward Presence in the Black Sea Region an Important Pillar of NATO Deterrence and Defence Component

The Black Sea region (BSR) is of crucial significance for European security, as it is a major crossroads of East-West and South-North corridors, including for the transit of energy resources, bearing unavoidable political implications. Many experts believe that whoever controls the BSR can easily project power to the European continent, mainly in the Balkans and Central Europe, but also to the other adjacent regions – Mediterranean Sea, South Caucasus or Middle East.

This was especially proven by the Crimean annexation and the complex Russian hybrid aggression on the eastern side of Ukraine, the BSR becoming the operational center of gravity of Russian activities, as well as one of the main bases for projecting its power and presence into the Eastern Mediterranean.

Over the past few years, Russia has constantly upgraded its military posture in pursuit of its strategic objectives as a great power status. Land and sea-based surface-to-air, surface-to-surface and anti-ship missiles are among capabilities Russia has already deployed or planned to be deployed for building up anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) in the region.

The challenges to security in the BSR are all interconnected in the wider context of Euro-Atlantic security. As the region is home to three NATO members (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) and several NATO partner countries, any instability in the area directly impacts the Alliance and the security of the entire Europe. The multi-layered A2/AD center that Russia built in Crimea over the past few years has the potential to forbid the allied *access in the region and the freedom of movement*, to challenge the whole measures of reassuring and defending the Eastern allies, and to serve as a platform for power projection into the Mediterranean and Middle East. Insufficiently addressed, this unbalanced security situation risks transforming the Black Sea Region (BSR) into the “soft belly” of NATO.

NATO Deterrence and Defense Strategy in the Black Sea Region

Within this context, NATO awareness about the potential impact of the Russian military build-up in the BSR has increased and the Alliance has remained highly concerned about what can be called a “Kaliningrad of the South”. Therefore, NATO developed a strategic response to strengthen its presence in this region, in parallel with the implementation of a rapid reinforcement strategy to ensure that its current presence can be gradually reinforced by a coordinated and timely deployment of very high readiness joint task forces, the broader NATO Response Force, Allies’ additional high readiness forces and NATO’s heavier follow-on forces.

As part of NATO’s strengthened deterrence and defense (D&D) posture, at the 2016 Warsaw Summit, the Allied Heads of States and Governments decided a set of measures designed to ensure a predictable and credible

➤ The Blue Scorpions





presence on the territory of its Eastern allies, including through establishing an enhanced forward presence (eFP) for the Northern part of the Eastern Flank and a tailored forward presence (tFP) for its the South-Eastern part.

In the Baltic Sea region, the enhanced forward presence included four robust, multinational, combat-ready multinational battalion-size battle-groups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These battle-groups, led by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and the United States, fully deployed in June 2017, are operational nowadays and demonstrate the strength of the transatlantic bond and make clear that an attack on one Ally would be considered an attack on the whole Alliance. They comprise multinational forces provided on a voluntary and rotational basis by framework nations and the majority of Allies, fully sustainable that operate in concert with national home defense forces and are present at all times in the host countries.

As for the South-Eastern part, NATO developed a forward presence tailored framework to the BSR through a series of measures that will be further addressed in this article. Important to note is that NATO's all forward presence-related measures are purely defensive in nature, proportionate, and in line with international agreements. They represent a peacetime demonstration of NATO's resolve to ensure effective deterrence against any potential threats involving a significant commitment of Allies and are a tangible reminder that an attack on one is an attack on all.

Romania's National Interest

Romania has been and remains a steady contributor and beneficiary of the Allied Deterrence and Defence (D&D) measures adopted in 2014, aimed at boosting the security of the nation and BSR, and implicitly, of the entire Alliance. Promoting the strategic implications of the Black Sea for European and transatlantic security has been a key goal for Romania, which has put all its diplomatic efforts into

increasing the awareness of allies and getting NATO to focus more on the South-Eastern flank of the alliance. During the last years, Romania has always promoted its national interest so that the Alliance can adopt a more balanced, holistic, and integrated approach to the security of the Eastern flank by promoting a unified concept for the NATO forward presence. This implies recognizing that the threat to European security is indivisible across the eastern flank and places the BSR on an equal footing with the Baltic Sea.

The big take away from the series of events that paved the way to the 2018 NATO Summit in Brussels was the consistent and persistent message articulated by Romania for strengthening the allied D&D posture in the BSR. This narrative has been a major foreign policy element promoted through various channels, at presidential, governmental and military high levels. Romania's President Klaus Iohannis and other officials have repeatedly called for an integrated and comprehensive approach to the security of NATO's eastern member states: "...[We have to consolidate the Eastern Flank of NATO, and this has to happen in a coherent and integrated manner]"; "...We need a better defended Eastern Flank, including through a unitary forward presence based on an integrated approach from the North to the South, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea".

In this respect, the NATO Summit in Brussels this year provided an opportunity for the Alliance to focus on the BSR's increased geopolitical importance.

Allied Forward Presence in the Black Sea Region

Bearing in mind that all actions of both the Alliance and its individual member states are defensive and deterrent in nature, the Forward Presence in the BSR aimed at increasing the defense and deterrence potential of NATO in the Southern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance. The tailored forward presence measures in the BSR contribute to the Alliance's strengthened D&D posture, to an enhanced situational



awareness, interoperability and responsiveness. These are several important measures developed under this umbrella:

- the ground component- the establishment of a multinational brigade in Craiova (Multinational Brigade South East – MNBDE SE), for which Romania is a framework nation. Ten Allies – Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal – have committed to it, contributing to the brigade headquarters and coordinating enhanced training. Currently, talks with other potential contributing Nations are ongoing, thus, expressing the important role this Headquarters plays in the NATO South-Eastern flank. The MNBDE SE reached the initial capability in April 2017 and will achieve the full operational capability by the end of 2018. The core of this multinational formation is the Romanian 2nd “Rovine” Infantry Brigade, a brigade of up to 4,000 soldiers, which is to be augmented by affiliated forces of contributing nations. Based on Brussels Summit decisions, actions are currently ongoing to further develop the operational capability of the brigade in order to contribute to the Alliance’s strengthened deterrence and defense posture;
- the air component, NATO’s enhanced Air Policing (eAP) and air combined training initiative are progressing well, with rotational Allied forces patrolling the Romanian and Bulgarian airspace. While the Romanian Air Force is fully capable of protecting its airspace, enhanced Air Policing (eAP) is part of the Alliance’s Assurance Measures for Eastern Allies introduced in 2014. Under NATO Allied Air Command control, tactically delivered by their Combined Air Operations Centre Torrejon, Spain, this deployment is a clear demonstration of the ability to fully exploit and integrate Allied Air Power. During 2017-2018, Canada, Portugal and United Kingdom have contributed to the eAP related activities deploying CF-188 Hornets, and respectively F-16, and RAF Typhoons at the Mihail

Kogălniceanu Air Base in Romania. During the mission, besides securing the skies over Romania, allied air forces also participated in joint training exercises with their Romanian counterparts, demonstrating their readiness in terms of and policing, command and control, medical support, flight safety, aircraft maintenance, and sending a solid signal of NATO’s resolve, commitment and solidarity.

In the maritime field, there is now an increased allied presence in the Black Sea. This involves integrated training and more exercises with the participation of the NATO Standing Naval Forces (SNMGs) in the Black Sea. An example in this respect are annual maritime exercises Sea Shield and Sea Breeze, and other routine SNMGs and other maritime assets from both Allied and partner states visits in Romanian BS ports. Within the limitations of the 1936 Montreux convention, warships belonging to non-riparian NATO countries enter the Black Sea intermittently for patrolling, exercising with riparian countries’ navies, and flag-showing port visits. Such warships have increased their presence in the Black Sea, from an aggregate 80 days in 2017 to 120 days planned for 2018. NATO will also ensure the coordination of the maritime activities in the Black Sea, which will allow for a better surveillance and reconnaissance of the situation in the region, as well as for a coherent and unitary approach between NATO activities in the Black Sea region and all the other maritime activities of the Alliance. A Regional Maritime Coordination Function (RMCF) was established in Allied Maritime Command, in this respect, supporting coordination among current contributing Naval Forces HQs. The RMCF was designed to strengthen the cooperation for training, the interoperability and the maritime situational awareness to better face any threat manifested at sea. Work with NATO is underway to establish a Black Sea Maritime Patrol mission modeled on the Baltic Air Policing mission.

At joint level, there is a combined enhanced training (CJET) initiative being developed. The CJET is currently



➤ The Blue Scorpions during nighttime training



➤ The Blue Scorpions at Saber Strike 18



➤ The Blue Scorpions, Poland



➤ The Blue Scorpions at Saber Strike 18

operational and provides a regional training platform through which Allies can affiliate and send troops in Romania for a coherent and integrated training, in order to increase their interoperability and combat capacity and readiness. The combined integrated training is based on a joint training activity synchronization matrix in the BSR for the following three years and is already part of the NATO training program.

Beside the components mentioned above, other two multinational command and control entities are already operational on the Romanian territory: the Headquarters of Multinational Division South-East (**HQ MND-SE**) and a NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU).

The Alliance is permanently adapting to a challenging and dynamic security environment with a more ambitious Russia. The implementation of NATO forward presence on the Eastern flank and the steps envisioned to increase the forces' readiness to be deployed quickly, if needed, are strong messages that NATO is prepared to deter and defend its member states against any potential hybrid or conventional threat. At the same time, the doors are kept open for engaging Russia in a political dialogue to reduce tensions, because Russia is the most important NATO neighbor and we want to strengthen the dialog and political consultation with our Eastern neighbor, Russia.

The Black Sea region will remain a complex area, with an unstable and volatile security environment and multiple security challenges, which increase the risks and threats not only for the littoral countries, Romania included, but also for the entire NATO Eastern flank. It is essential for NATO security that the Black Sea region receive special attention. A permanent and sufficient allied presence on Romanian territory is required in this respect with a view of maintaining a persistent and credible deterrence effect against any potential aggressor.



Joint Training Exercises conducted by Land Forces

Platinum Eagle-18.2

The opening ceremony of Multinational Exercise PLATINUM EAGLE 18.2 took place at the Land Forces Secondary Combat Training Center from Babadag, on August 28th.

After the intonation of the national anthems of the six participant countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova and the United States of America), Lieutenant Colonel Ciprian Balica, the commanding officer of the exercise and commander of 341st Infantry Battalion “Constanța”, presented the goal and objectives of the exercise and wished the servicemen good luck in the upcoming training activities.

Through August 27th–September 8, 100 soldiers of the Romanian armed forces jointly trained with almost 230 military personnel from Bulgaria, Georgia, Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova and the United States of America, at Land Forces Secondary Combat Training Center from Babadag, Tulcea County, as part of the PLATINUM EAGLE-18.2 training

module, within Multinational Exercise BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE – 18 (BSRF-18).

The Romanian Armed forces were represented by servicemen from 9th Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești”, respectively 341st Infantry Battalion “Constanța” of Land Forces and by military personnel from 307th Infantry Marine, of the Romanian Naval Forces.

The objectives of PLATINUM EAGLE-18.2 were to increase interoperability among the partner states’ armed forces participating in the exercise, maintaining the deployment and joint training capability by practicing the joint provision of logistic support, developing a regional environment favorable to multinational military cooperation and enhancing the training level of the servicemen from the participating states. The novelty is that aviation forces deployed in the firing range in an offensive action will be integrated into the exercise, also.

Tactical exercises which include firing sessions with the the unit weaponry, giving first aid in the areas of operations as well as practicing the

command and control procedures at small unit level are planned to take place as part of the joint training exercises.

BSRF is an annual exercise – led by the United States Marine Corps, Europe deployed in Europe and Africa —, which is conducted in the Black Sea Region, Balkans and the Caucasus with the goal of increasing the interoperability level of the armed forces by means of the joint training of the servicemen with a view of participating in peace-keeping and counterinsurgency operations.

Justice Eagle-18

Justice Eagle-18 Joint Training Exercise was conducted in “Smârdan” Secondary Combat Training Center, Galați County, through April 16th–20th.

Over 100 servicemen of 284th Armor Battalion and 300th Infantry Battalion, of Romanian Land Forces, and 1-18 Infantry Battalion of the United States of America participated in this activity.

The scenario of the exercise was a fictitious one, consisting in leading

offensive actions with TR 85 M and M 1 “Abrams” tanks, MLI 84 M Infantry Fighting Vehicles, DMT 85 M1 Minesweeper and MEDEVAC means.

Major Mihai Bănescu offered details about this joint exercise conducted by the soldiers of 284th Armor Battalion: “This training segment is the result of a series of activities which began in December 2017, and were conducted jointly with the 1-18 Infantry Battalion of the US Army and the 300th Mechanized Infantry Battalion. The soldiers executed joint training activities, firing sessions with individual armament, field training exercises and platoon and company-level tactical exercises; also, the SOPs were also rehearsed during the exercise.

The scenario of the exercise was focused on offensive actions. There was a force structure made up of an Romanian armor platoon, a US one, an infantry platoon, combat support structures, a minesweeper group and a reconnaissance group. The exercise consisted in attacking an enemy support point and creating several breaches in the defence line of the enemy.”

The joint training exercises executed with the US soldiers, under the name code “Justice Eagle” began in 2017, when all our armor and infantry specialists trained together with 1-18 Infantry Battalion of the US Army. The actions of the participating structures were led by the armor and infantry company commanders.



➤ Land Force soldiers at Exercise Justice Eagle

„The option to use this mixture of different-level structures was chosen in order to increase the soldiers’ ability in using the English language during the operations, especially because the exercise was conducted together with the US partner and also to enhance interoperability” – stated Major Bănescu.

The joint exercises are very complex and based on a rigorous planning process. The participating structures had to respect the exercise tactical framework, synchronize its actions, permanently communicate with the other structures and with the C2 elements, execute live firing sessions and respect the safety rules which are to be used in the training range.

„The exercise was mainly conducted according to its planned scenario, the training activities and the combat firing sessions were executed within the previously scheduled parameters. It is a satisfaction to see that the Romanian and US soldiers come to train together in the firing range, without considering it an exotic event; we are partners and colleagues. We train with our US partners the same way we train with our colleagues from the 300th Mechanized Infantry Battalion” – declared the commander of 284th Armor Battalion, Major Lucian Oancea.



➤ Exercise Platinum Eagle



French officer cadets, training with the “Black Vipers”

Two officer cadets from Special Military School of Saint Syr, Coetquidan, France, executed their training stage at the 21st Mountain Troop Battalion “General Leornard Mociulschi” from Predeal.

The cadets integrated into the soldiers’ training program of the battalion by actively participating in the mountain and sky training stages.

Also, the officer cadets participated in a search and rescue exercise, accompanied by the battalion’s search & rescue team. The activities practiced

during the exercise were: the search of victims by an attentive inspection and examination of the field and evacuation of the wounded personnel.

Following the discussions held with the two French cadets, they wanted to emphasize the fact that the week spent at the 21st Mountain Troop Battalion “General Leornard Mociulschi” was an unprecedented experience, which implied the acquiring of new techniques and procedures; also, they were impressed by the warm welcome they received and the collaboration with the command team, at the same time appreciating the professionalism of the soldiers they trained with.



➤ Land Force soldiers at Eercise Justice Eagle



The American unit which trained together with our colleagues, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment /1st Infantry Division, is an emblematic unit of the US Army. The unit has an exceptional military tradition, having participated in military actions since the US Civil War and up to nowadays ‘conflicts from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Attending the exercise, the commander of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Moon declared for us: “*Justice Eagle* was an excellent exercise, which can be considered the most efficient joint training exercise conducted with our colleagues of 282nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade from this rotation. We benefitted from the brigade’s excellent planning process, together with the 284th Armor Battalion and 300th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, for these training sessions executed at both at individual and team levels and at collective level also: a collective live firing training session”.

Tobruq Legacy 2018

Tobruq Legacy (TOLY) is a traditional surface-based air defence exercise conducted annually by the NATO member state armed forces.

Determined to increase the number of participant nations, as well as the scenario complexity each year, the organizers succeeded in bringing together 19 NATO states deployed on Hungarian and Slovak territory in order to participate in a new edition of TOLY 2018, with a view of increasing interoperability of air defence structures and tactical and technical integration among allied European countries.

Initially created as a surface-based air defence (SBAD) exercise conducted jointly with Czech, Hungarian and Polish forces, TOLY developed throughout the last four years into the biggest SBAD exercise within NATO, with focus on the training of the participant forces in planning, organizing and conducting air defence operations in a complex multinational environment.

The training conferences of the exercise started last year, when the Air Force Staff organizers assumed an ambitious plan: an absolute novelty for the Romanian Air Force, a small surface-to-air missile unit received order to deploy towards the Hungarian area of operations of the exercise with almost 100 military personnel and their adjacent equipment by all modes of transportation: road, rail and air transport.

Thus, although the exercise was scheduled to begin on June 4th 2018, the wagons loaded with equipment and the servicemen left Bucharest by railway, via Curtici, on May 28th. The next day, another part of the detachment went to the area of operations by road, following the route Bucharest-Sibiu-Arad-Bakony; on May 31st, 45 more servicemen flew to 90th Airlift Air Base with a C-130 Hercules aircraft towards Papa Air Base, where they moved on by road to the training area, where the entire detachment got together. Thus, the battery deployment itself was an assumed challenge which required a detailed preparation process. Another premiere was the transportation of certain elements of the Hawk system by

aircraft; thus, we demonstrated that we can relocate our equipment by air, without facing any emerging problems.

TOLY 18 scenario engaged two Reporting and Control Centers from Hungary and Slovak Republic, tightly connected with the AIRCOM and NATO Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) Uedem and Torrejon. The multinational Surface Based Air Defence Operations Centre (SBADOC) is under the command of the Hungarian CRC, which, its turn, will have three distinct Global Operations Centers (GOCs). The equipping of the 1st SAM Brigade with soil-to-air missile systems and command and control equipments according to NATO standards enabled the integration of a HAWK battery at the level of the Ground Based Air Defense (GBAD) GOC within the second Task Force of the exercise, consisting in Slovak, Polish and Romanian fire units.

GOC 1 consisted of a Task Force composed of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian detachments, coordinated by Hungary while Dutch and German servicemen made up GOC 3.

Lieutenant-colonel Răzvan SPÎNU, commander of the detachment participating in the exercise: *"This exercise was of utmost importance for the servicemen of the 1st SAM Brigade... Once deployed to the area of responsibility, the servicemen prepare for the emplacement of the combat capabilities on the ground. The reconnaissance team begins its activity, based on the application of the recon procedures practiced so far during the national exercises and on the efficiency of the combat capabilities meant to make the most of the HAWK battery's fire power. Then, the battery is connected to the GOC2 target acquisition command post and Task Force 2 (TF2) is established from Bulgarian, Polish, Slovak and 7 Romanian servicemen who, among others, play the Battle Captain role (responsible with the target acquisition at the level of 2nd Operations Center of GBAD TF 2).*

All these lead the transition to the next stage: the LIVEX. The following three days, the activity was conducted uninterruptedly, the scheduled flights simulating complex air attacks meant to test the combat capability of the personnel and adjacent equipment.

The Romanian Air Force MIG-21 LanceRs of 71st Air Base and the IAR-99 Șoim aircraft of 95th Air Base Bacău participated in the LIVEX, conducting air target marking missions. These missions consist in flying over the exercise area of operations in support of the training of the ground-based air defence detachments.

Major Mihai ZGRIPCEA, Chief of Communications: *"Such a multinational activity is an efficient training for any air defence structure that is to be evaluated/certified by NATO.*

There were many participants; any comparison in terms of equipment is difficult, taking into account the fact that each

➤ Exercise Tobruq Legacy 2018



structure participated with different systems. From this respect, I can say that it was a useful exchange of experience.

The participation in the exercise confirmed once again the utility and necessity for an overall implementation of the SOPs. Also, the exercise was an opportunity to consolidate relations between the air defence participating structures."

Colonel Virgil TOŞA, the coordinator of the exercise, stated: *"The exercise implied a detailed planning process, a multidisciplinary effort, which involved several structures of the Air Force Staff. Also, besides the conjugated efforts of the servicemen who were deployed in the field, other structures had an essential role for the success of the mission: Movement Coordination Section, Logistic Service, 90th, 71st and 95th Air Bases, the Application School for Combat Support Units /Sibiu and 191st Infantry Battalion /Arad.*

This type of multinational exercises is an evaluation method of the capabilities we operate and an important source of lessons learned whom we have to acknowledge when planning the following activities. We can say that the Romanian SBAD units and small units propelled us into the top of the European SBAD community.

Moreover, we must consider the future procurement of the Patriot missile systems, which will propel us to the exclusive group of the armed forces operating modern systems; this exercise does nothing but prepares us for this future."

The closing ceremony of the exercise took place in in Bakony CTC from Hungary, on June 14th 2018.

The schedule of the activities comprised a LIVEX demo with deployments and SBAD equipment in the field and the visitation of the static exhibition, where the Romanian Air Force displayed elements of the Hawk missile system elements. Colonel Pál SZÜCS, the director of the exercise, sent his appreciation to all participant NATO member states: *"Throughout the two weeks of the exercise, all participants demonstrated a high sense of responsibility and effectively accomplished their tasks. We come from different countries, speak different languages, but we are dedicated to the same common air defence mission."*

NATO Evaluation Exercise of C-27J SPARTAN Detachment

A detachment made up of two C-27 J SPARTAN aircraft of 90th Airlift Base is now part of the NATO assigned forces, according to Romania's commitments assumed within NATO, following the validation given within the evaluation process.

This detachment was initially evaluated at national level with a view of being certified in 2013; then, TACEVAL programme began in 2015. TACEVAL Division / AIRCOM Ramstein evaluated the airlift detachment by means of a check-up (without STARTASSESS-type rating); following the evaluation, the board proposed that the TACEVAL programme be continued with a CAPABILITY EVALUATION-type rating, after having implemented the recommendations made by the evaluation team, in each field.

According to the NATO evaluation procedures, ACEVAL/ AIRCOM Ramstein Division performed the CAPABILITY EVALUATION-type check-up of the C-27J Spartan Detachment, through 05–16 March 2018; thus, the C-27J Spartan Detachment is the first NATO airlift detachment which finished the TACEVAL programme and is able to accomplish its mission at the standards imposed by the Alliance.

The evaluation process was conducted during Exercise COLD IGLOO 2018, with the participation of approximately 250 servicemen (97 of them were evaluators – out of which 80 were foreign and 17 were Romanians - 10 observers and 20 liaison officers). CAPABILITY EVALUATION-type assessment was the first one of this type in the Romanian Air Forces and marks a starting point in the acknowledgement of the importance of TACEVAL programme.

The harsh weather did not stop our comrades from completing their training. The concentration, efforts and dedication were the elements which, once again, proved the fact that the C-27J SPARTAN Detachment stands for a valuable team; a well-bound team who proved its professionalism anytime was necessary by accomplishing an entire range of missions. A MISSION CAPABLE TEAM.

In-flight refueling. A glimpse inside KC-135, "The Flying Gas Station"...

The third aerial refueling exercise of the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft took place at the beginning of March 2018, the first such exercise taking place in February last year, while the second was conducted in September. The refueling operation was performed by a KC-135 Stratotanker belonging to the 100th Air Refueling Wing of USAFE (United States Air Forces in Europe).

The day of the main training session, we went onboard of the KC 135 Stratotanker, stationed on 90th Airlift Base in order to talk to the USAFE crew members, an hour before taking off.

The KC-135 Stratotanker provides the core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years. This unique asset enhances the Air Force's capability in accomplishing its primary mission of global reach. It also provides aerial refueling support to the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft.

Cpt. Jonathan Benson, KC-135 pilot: *"I've been a KC-135 pilot for 6 years. The Stratotanker was my first option, I consider it to be a great aircraft. We're based at RAF Mildenhall, currently the home of our 100th Air Refueling Wing (100 ARW), and from here we have the opportunity to execute air refueling missions throughout Europe."*

Refueling mission with the F-16

"Well, first of all we're happy to be here. Although some of my colleagues from 100th ARW were in Romania the previous



➤ Refueling of F-16

year, doing the same kind of mission, it's the first time me or my crew members have been here.

We have the same objective as the Romanian Air Force pilots: training. Even though our crew members are highly experienced, we are doing this mission as a learning opportunity for a few new operators that are on training now. They will get to observe all the activity and the procedures of our boom operator.

Today we'll be refueling maybe eight Romanian F-16s, so at the end of the day everybody will have a fair share of practice. Although the main goal is to practice the refueling protocols, overall it's also about increasing interoperability with our allies, from a complex point of view: communications, flight procedures, logistics, NATO standards."



➤ C-27J Spartan Detachment

Inside the Stratotanker aircraft, we also met with in-flight refueling technician **SSGT Greg WEBB** – who was then performing the preflight checklist procedures. In the U.S. Air Force, the title "Boom Operator" is more commonly used for his job, describing an aircrew member onboard of a tanker aircraft who is responsible for safely and effectively refueling other aircraft during flight. We must say that the selection requirements for being a boom operator are very specific: they must have normal depth perception, cannot be shorter than 64 inches (160 cm) or taller than 77 inches (200 cm), must go through special medical investigation, and complete seven and a half-week basic military training, and must be between the age of 17 and 39. SSGT Webb is also lefthanded. He showed us his "office", a tight pod where the boom operator lies flat with the chest down and the back up, controlling the boom during in-flight air refueling.

Sometimes, the boom operator has to stay in in prone position up to four hours. "But time passes quickly when you are focused on the job".

Although his job can get him back pains sometimes, he says that he probably has the greatest job in the world, or at least, "the office" with the greatest view.



➤ Exercise Tobruq Legacy 2018

Naval Forces Operations in 2018



➤ Exercise Breeze 18

Acting as a NATO and EU member state, Romania has constantly stated its active support regarding the increase of naval forces of these organizations in the Black Sea region. In this regard, the main objective of the Naval Forces became conducting joint exercises with the allies in the Black Sea and participating in the Standing Maritime Naval Groups.

The maritime and river area management, monitorization of the naval and river area situation under the responsibility of the Naval Forces, at the Eastern border of the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, increase of the operational capability of the NATO-assigned forces, and running the procurement and upgrading programs are some of the multiple actions continued throughout 2018.

The cooperation with NATO, EU and other states of the Extended Black Sea Area offer opportunities and innovative partnership mechanisms, as proved in the NATO Summit from Brussels: significant increase of NATO maritime presence and activity in the Black Sea, improvement of the acknowledgement of the overall maritime situation, consolidated exercise programmes to revigorate the naval combat collective abilities, in key- interest areas.

Due to the developments in the security situation of the Black Sea Basin, the training objective of the Naval Forces was the building, consolidation and maintaining the high-level readiness of forces for the accomplishment of the missions and tasks assigned via the plans developed at national and NATO level, concomitantly with supporting the national and Alliance initiatives in order to contribute to the increase and consolidation of Romania's role both at regional level and within the Alliance.

By implementing Romania's security policy and meeting the commitments assumed by our country as part of the international security system, the Naval Forces accomplished the training objectives set for 2018, as follows: training its personnel and structures in order to ensure the operational capability and necessary interoperability level required to participate in missions and operations; establish the adequate framework to ensure the allied tailored forward presence; develop/maintain the operational capability of the structures at joint and multinational levels.

The visits, the multinational exercises, the soldiers' participation in NATO working groups or manning certain positions within the NATO and EU commands were meant to consolidate the Naval Forces' and Romania's image at regional and international levels within NATO and EU.



➤ Exercise Sea Shield 18

In 2018, the Romanian navy servicemen and will have participated in multinational exercises, both domestically and abroad, by the end of this year.

The main multinational exercises organized by the Romanian Naval Forces are **SEA SHIELD** (counteracting the surface, air and underwater threats), **POSEIDON** (mine warfare exercise), **SPRING STORM** (practicing amphibious operations) and **EURASIAN PARTNERSHIP DIVE MCM**, (mine countermeasure exercise) which involved Air, Land and Coast Guard structures.

Also, on-sea training activities were conducted together with the NATO partner states ships which docked at the Black Sea, as sequences of the “**BLACK SEA RESOLVE EVENTS**” Exercise, but we participated and will continue to participate in **BREEZE Exercises**, organized the Bulgarian partners, **DOGU AKDENIZ/ MAVI BALINA** and **MCM NUSRET**, organized by the Turkish Naval Forces, **SEA BREEZE**, organized by the USA and Ukraine, as well as in **ARIADNE** multinational exercise, organized by the Hellenic partners. The Romanian Marines will continue to participate in the monthly sequences of the Black Sea Rotational Force Exercise (**BSRF**), led by the US partners, but also in **BALTOPS** multinational exercise organized by NATO, in Poland.

The balance between the Immediate Assurance Measures requirements and the Romanian Naval Forces capability in accomplishing the assigned missions is ensured by upgrading the current warfare platforms and the successful implementation of the procurement programs. Considering the current and future funds allocated, this balance is likely to be achieved; the accomplishment of this objective will lead to the



strengthening of the Romanian Naval Forces’ combat capabilities and will enable the accomplishment of the assigned missions, without limitations.

In the field of Resources, the Naval Forces focused on the restructuring of their units and modernization of capabilities according to the *Romanian Armed Forces’ transformation*,





development and procurement programme until 2026. The procurement programmes initiated in 2018 or those which are scheduled to be initiated in the following period were prioritized in two stages:

The first stage will be conducted through 2018-2020 and will consist in: procuring new multi-tasking corvettes and of the mobile missile launch installations; initiating the upgrading process of the T22R frigates by running the "offset"-type operations, as part of the Multi-task Corvettes Programmes and equipping the frigates with air, surface and underwater warfare devices; finalizing the equipping of the "Armored Fast Patrol Boat" with new engines (programme initiated in 2017) and initiating a new engine re-fitting program of the "Monitor" Vessels.

The second stage will be conducted over 2020-2026 and consists - among others - in the procurement and operation of four multi-tasking corvettes, modernization of the Missile Carrier Boats, running the second stage of the Integrated System for Observation, Surveillance and Control of the Traffic at the Black Sea (S.C.O.M.A.R.), procuring antisubmarine helicopters for the multi-task corvettes and airlift helicopters for the Infantry Marine Regiment. At the same time, pending on the Naval Forces budget at that moment, a multiannual submarine procurement programme will be initiated.

Beyond the missions accomplished at the highest standards, we must emphasize the fact the naval educational institutions demonstrate they have harmonized with the allied member states' educational systems and that they developed specialists able to meet the operational requirements of the structures where they conduct their activity. Starting this autumn,



➤ Exercise Sea Shield 18



➤ Exercise Spring Storm 18



the Military College "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" will function again, in Constanța, as part of the Naval Forces Staff.

The continuous modernization and transformation of the Military Navy during the last years in order to adapt to the national security strategy and the new security challenges made that the Naval Forces stand for a flexible and adaptable Service, able to promptly accomplish the missions from the assigned area of responsibility.

Our institution is in the service of all Romanian citizens and we will continue to accomplish our missions with dignity and professionalism with a view of consolidating collective security and defence in the Black Sea Region, by being a credible ally for our international partners.

Testing CIS Interoperability



„Cetatea 2018” – Communications and Information Systems Exercise (CISEX)

Through September 24th–October 05th, 2018, the Communications and Information Systems Command will coordinate the deployment, installation, operating and redeployment stages of “CETATEA 2018” Exercise, a Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Exercise (C4ISR)/ Communications and Information Systems Interoperability Exercise (CISEX), planned by the OSE-Officer Scheduling the Exercise and led by the OCE-Officer Conducting the Exercise.

Starting with 2005, “CETATEA” Exercise has been annually organized, this being its fourteenth edition. If until 2016, “CETATEA” Exercise was conducted at national level,

starting 2017, the exercise has had a multinational character, being included into NATO MTEP-Military Training and Exercise Programme.

„CETATEA 2018” Exercise is organized based on the experience gained while providing host nation support and participating in NATO C4ISR/CIS interoperability testing Exercise “STEADFAST COBALT 2016”, organized on Romania’s territory, while participating in Saber Guardian17 Exercise, “CETATEA” Exercises, in international missions, etc, but also with the help the new equipment operated by the communications and information systems units and small units (IT Modules, Points-of-Presence, satellite equipment, wideband radio stations), as well as with the dedication of the specialty personnel in installing and operating the Communications and Information Systems – CIS.

„CETATEA 2018” Exercise will be conducted at three levels - strategic,

operative and tactical – in static and deployable environments, as well as at inter-institutional level, with the participation of the communication and information systems structures of the Ministry of National Defence, the Special Telecommunications Service and Ministry of the Internal Affairs, up to company level.

Taking into consideration the multinational character of the exercise, two NATO member states announced their intention to participate in the exercise – Italy and Bulgaria – as well as the Republic of Moldova. The exercise offers the opportunity to test, develop, evaluate and confirm the interoperability of C4ISR systems in operating in a federated mission networking environment.

Throughout the exercise, the participating countries will employ their communications and information systems capabilities in order to test the CIS interoperability by ensuring the



voice, data and videoteleconference communication both in the classified networks, organized according to the Federated Mission Networking (FMN) and the unclassified ones. Besides the

mission and the unclassified networks, the CIS will also consist in radio networks, radio-relay links and satellite communications networks.

„CETATEA” – type exercises aim at continuously developing, testing, evaluating and validating the communications and information systems capabilities required to accomplish the future national, inter-institutional and NATO operations and missions, including the provision of the necessary logistic support.

Deployable CIS Module “E” – DCM-E

On August 1st 2010, the requirement of having and hosting a deployable CIS module on Romanian soil led to the establishment of DCM-E, the only Romanian structure of this type, exclusively manned with Romanian personnel, under the command of the 2nd NATO Signal Battalion of NCISG (NATO CIS Group, the former NCSA – NATO Communications and Information Systems Agency).

The selection and recruitment process and the achievement of the required readiness level were characterized by high standards, strictness and intensive training so that, as a result, DCM-E reached its Initial Operating Capability in only 18 months since its establishment, being highly

appreciated by the commander of the 2nd NATO Signal Battalion.

In order to meet the current and emerging training needs of the Alliance, DCM personnel participated in a number of courses held at NCISS (NATO CIS School) Latina- Italy and in NATO School Oberammergau, Germany.

Moreover, the knowledge gained at NATO's training and education centers mentioned above, was put into practice during multiple exercises, as follows: STEADFAST COBALT (2011, 2016, 2017), TRIDENT JUNCTURE (2015, 2016), RAMSTEIN DUST I (2015), TRIDENT JOUST (2015), NOBLE JUMP II (2016), TRIDENT JAGUAR (2014), STEADFAST JAZZ (2013), STEADFAST INDICATOR (2012, 2013, 2014) and was completed during the intensive programs organized in our country and at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

The Deployable CIS Module has proved its competence and professionalism during the missions accomplished in Turkey and Afghanistan. So far, DCM-E personnel have participated in 6 missions, as follows:

- January–August 2012 – ISAF Mission, Kabul, Afghanistan
- April–August 2013 – Active Fence Mission (Turkey);
- July 2014–January 2015 – Resolute Support Mission – Kabul Afghanistan;
- April–August 2015 – Active Fence (Turkey);
- November 2016–March 2017 – NS2TUR – NATO Support to Turkey (Turkey);
- January–July 2018 – Resolute Support Mission, Kabul, Afghanistan.

All the missions presented above were executed by the personnel of the Deployable CIS Module at the highest performance standards and their work has been praised not only by the commander of the 2nd NATO Signal Battalion of NATO Communications and Information Systems Group (NCSIG), but also by Romania and NATO' s officials.



The participation of the Joint Logistic Command subordinated structures in missions abroad

According to the Homeland Defence Supreme Council Decision no. S-130 of December 4th, 2017, the Joint logistic Command (JLC) participates in missions and operations abroad in 2018, as follows:

Resolute Support Mission, in the Theater of Operations, Afghanistan

National Support Element (42 servicemen) was designated to provide third line logistic support to the Romanian structures deployed in the Afghanistan TO.

The participation of the JLC structures in missions and operations abroad began in 2008, at the same time with the establishment and rendering the Support and Transit Module operational, consisting in 18 servicemen, the first structure designated to provide third line logistic support to the Romanian contingent deployed in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations.

Starting with 2009, the JLC established and rendered the National Support Element operational, which took over the missions of the Support and Transit Module's missions. Along time, the National Support Element (NSE) has undergone several necessary changes by having its size gradually increased/decreased.

During the missions' execution, the OPCOM over the NSE is exerted by the Joint Forces Command, while the ADCON is exercised by the JLC.



➤ National Support Element Detachment, Kandahar, Afghanistan

The JLC selected the personnel to be assigned to NSE from all MoND units. Along time, 1065 soldiers were assigned to the NSE.

Currently, 42 soldiers are deployed to Afghanistan, as part of the NSE, VII Rotation, Resolute Support Mission. The readiness level of the structure was evaluated from 14 to 15 February, 2018, by a Joint Forces Command team and was rated as Excellent. The current rotation of the NSE was deployed to the theater of operations on February 27th, 2018, the NSE rotation taking place over February 27th-March 16th, 2018.

The NSE conducted third line logistic support operations throughout

2018 such as: campaign services for the military personnel who transited the KAF, HKIA, BAGRAM and Camp BUTMIR Bases, necessary support to the Force Protection Battalion, administrative support, fitting out the working spaces and housing facilities for the Romanian additional forces, checking on the technical status of the ballistic equipment and armament assigned to the Romanian contingent, providing MEDEVAC support to the Romanian soldiers to ROL-4 Hospital Landstuhl, Germany. The injured Romanian soldiers were accompanied by an NSE serviceman.

Currently, the JLC is conducting the first phase of the selection process

of the personnel to be assigned to the eight rotation of NSE.

NATO KFOR, Kosovo Theatre of Operations

The Romanian Armed Forces have one soldier assigned to the Movement Control Multinational team (MovCon MILU Team), for the first semester of 2018. The JLC participation in the KFOR mission dates back to 2014, when we assigned 4 soldiers to the MovCon MILU Team, the number of soldiers increasing with 2 more each year, until 2017. The MovCon MILU Team personnel conducted their activity within the Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG)/KFOR HQ-KOSOVO, by planning and coordinating air operations for the KFOR troops, by monitoring the air operations in Pristina Military Airport, analyzing and approving the ground transportation requests submitted by the participating nations on/outside Kosovo territory and developing the after action reports of the conducted activities (MOVSITREP, LOGUPDATE, LOGASSESREP, FFASSSREP).

EUFOR ALTHEA Mission, Bosnia Herzegovina Theater of Operations

The JLC assigned one NSE soldier in order to provide logistic support to the Romanian forces deployed to the theater of operations from Bosnia Herzegovina.

Starting with 2014, the JLC generated and rendered operational a National Support Element (one soldier) in order to participate in EUFOR ALTEA Operation. The NSE from Bosnia Herzegovina maintained contact with the logistic structure of EUFOR HQ with a view of establishing the logistic planning elements on the participation of the Romanian forces in the OPREH-type exercises, the reception and validation of the invoices for the goods and services the Romanian soldiers are entitled to, centralizing the in -processing forms and the NATO/EU classified information specific forms, ID cards,

shopping cards, housing, feeding, laundry services, etc.

At present, the March-September 2018 rotation of NSE conducts its activity in Bosnia Herzegovina theater of operations.

Structures assigned to the NATO response Force (NRF)

In 2018, the JLC contributes to the NRF 2018 with 1 NSE, consisting in 43 soldiers. The structure was rendered operational and certified last year, in stand-by position from January 1st to December 31st, 2018.

Also, the NSE designated to be assigned to NRF 2019 is currently being rendered operational and was certified during ROMANIAN TRIDENT Exercise, which took place from 22nd to 26th June, 2018.



➤ NSE soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan



➤ Soldiers of the NSE Communications Centre, Kandahar, Afghanistan



➤ NSE soldiers performing maintenance works at the CIS equipment

Bucharest 9 Defence Ministers' Meeting

MoND organized the B9 Meeting in defence ministers' format, taking place in Bucharest from the 12th to the 14th of March, co-chaired by the Romanian and Polish defence ministers. The reunion was attended by the defence ministers and high officials of the member states of the initiative-Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary as well as US and NATO representatives.

MoND organized the B9 Meeting in defence ministers' format, taking place in Bucharest from the 12th to 14th of March, co-chaired by the Romanian and Polish defence ministers. The reunion was attended by the defence ministers and high officials of the member states of the initiative-Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary as well as US and NATO representatives.

The activity abounded in an exchange of opinions on allied defence and deterrence posture and represented an opportunity to harmonize national positions of the B9 member states on the current topics listed on the upcoming NATO Summit's agenda, thus, facilitating the taking of a common decision with respect to the process of continuous consolidation of NATO's deterrence and defence posture, with focus on its Eastern Flank.

Thus, aspects related to the security situation on the Alliance Eastern flank, including the hybrid and cybernetic threats, Russia's foreign and defence policy and the status of the implementation of the Warsaw Summit decisions as well as objectives and expectations from the 2018 NATO Summit were tackled during the reunion. Also, the participants exchanged views on the increase of interoperability among B9 states' armed forces and the US forces stationed in Europe, as well as other emerging topics, such as consolidation of NATO-EU cooperation, with focus on the mobility of forces on the Eastern flank.

During the official talks, Romania pointed out several aspects of regional security, in a constantly unpredictable security environment among which the most important was consolidating the Black Sea regional profile at allied level in the context of Russia's efforts to consolidate its military posture in the region. Likewise, Romania highlighted the need to continue the allied efforts with regard to its forward presence, at the same time emphasizing the fact that it will maintain a constant tempo in rendering operational the tFP initiatives/structures.

The reunion confirmed once again the allied solidarity and unity as prerequisites for the successfulness, credibility

and effectiveness of the unique, integrated and coherent deterrence and defence posture. The main decisions taken in the field of defence at this year's Summit affirmed once again the need to maintain efforts to consolidate the defence and deterrence posture at all levels in line with the operational requirements in the field.

The common approach of the security environment led to the need to increase dialogue at military and political levels and to coordinate matters at practical level within B9 Initiative.





➤ Working Session II. B9 Countries

Romania's defence policy in the context of a constantly evolving security environment

The current security environment is very complex, consisting of interconnected and interdependent elements in a continuous dynamics—the rise of ISIL and increase of instability in the Middle East and North Africa, the negative impact of the Russian Federation activities in the Black Sea Region and increased threats posed by the cybernetic attacks, terrorist and extremist actions against the European citizens. In these circumstances, the world stability cannot be conceived without cooperation on multiple plans at the level of the international community. Also, it is vital to have an overall vision on national security, at national level. The National Defence Strategy 2015-2019 places the defence dimension together with other disciplines of the society, such as public order, education, health, energy, in an overarching inter-institutional approach.

Due to its geostrategic position, as a member state located at NATO's Eastern border, Romania has the task to secure it and face all threats and security risks but also to promote the democratic and Euro-Atlantic values in the region.

All these aspects directly impact and are reflected in the defence policy and its objectives. Thus, the armed forces are currently undergoing a deep transformation process that is meant to turn them into robust defence capabilities with a view of providing an adequate response to the present and future challenges posed to the security environment, including in the hybrid, nonconventional spectrum.

In order to enhance strategic credibility among NATO and EU, our country aims at consolidating a distinct profile within the two organizations by firmly engaging into the common decision-making and implementation process. A special attention is paid to the preparations made with a view of taking over the EU Council Chairmanship for the first semester of 2019.

Other significant coordinates of the defence policy are the consolidation of strategic partnerships, especially the

one with the USA as well as the development of international cooperation at bilateral and regional levels. These are considered increase vectors of Romania's strategic profile, as a relevant actor in the international and regional security arena, supporting the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the Eastern neighboring states.

Not least, supporting the public authorities in the management of the emergency situations represents an essential dimension of the defence policy and, implicitly, a distinct mission of the armed forces, which are trained to act in this respect.

The intrinsic value of the defence policy objectives is increased by ensuring the resources which will allow for their constant implementation. A good-quality human resource and an adequate funding are fundamental in this respect. It is worth mentioning that this is the second year when Romania allocates 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures which is mainly reflected in the acquisition of major equipment.

Today, we can state that Romania's defence policy is adapted to the security environment and to its evolving character, with clearly set objectives and is based on an adequate funding, in accordance with its international commitments.

Thus, the defence policy becomes an essential tool in promoting Romania's security interests and implicitly substantiating our national contribution to the Euro-Atlantic and regional security and stability.

The Reunions of the Foreign Affairs Council and their contribution to the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)

PESCO represents an intensified form of cooperation on the Common Defence and Security Policy dimension aiming at building European defence capabilities on solid grounds by eliminating parallelisms and by involving jointly use of resource and generating the necessary forces for the execution of the EU missions and operations.

The Initiative was officially launched on November 13th, 2017, during the Foreign Affairs Council Reunion, when the interested member states signed the Notification on Permanent Structured Cooperation to the Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The participating member states pledged to assume 20 constraining commitments previously negotiated and agreed upon as compulsory membership criteria to PESCO. During the Foreign Affairs Council Reunion of December 11th, 2017, PESCO Launching Decision was adopted with reinforced qualified majority and signed by 25 EU member states (with the exception of Great Britain, Denmark and Malta). PESCO Launching Decision was endorsed at political level during the European Council's Reunion of 14 December. Previously to the decision-making, the participant states submitted to PESCO Secretariat the National Implementation Plans of the 20 countries.

Also, following the proposal of the member states, over 50 common projects to be developed under PESCO aegis were identified. These projects were listed in hierarchical order following an analysis made by the European External Action Service, resulting a set of 17 priority ones. This initial set of projects was approved by Foreign Affairs Council Decision as of March 6th 2018. Romania committed to participate in 5 of these priority projects: *European Medical Command*, *Military Mobility*, *EU Training Mission Competence Centre (EU TMCC)*, *Maritime (semi-) Autonomous Systems for Mine Countermeasures (MASMCM)*, *Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Space Security*.

During the Foreign Affairs Council meeting of March 6th 2018, the State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations restated Romania's commitment in promoting PESCO, as an initiative which makes a major

contribution to the consolidation of EU profile as a global actor. Also, the Romanian official emphasized the fact that PESCO will increase its European contribution within NATO and will foster an equitable sharing of burden. In the same reunion, the EU member states adopted a set of recommendations of the Council with respect to the next development stages of PESCO initiative. These translate into specific measures that will facilitate the implementation of PESCO, with the aim of structuring and optimizing the associated processes. The recommendations refer to the staging of the implementation plans of the 20 projects, clarifications with respect to the submission, evaluation and approval of new PESCO projects, establishment of the framework for the endorsement of the common set of rules for the project management, reporting to third states and not least, the reporting and evaluation mechanism. An additional step was taken on June 25th, when the Decision was taken on the establishment of a common set of governance rules for PESCO projects.

The results obtained following PESCO projects' implementation up to present are outstanding. The political framework is favorable and the position adopted by the member states reflects a firm commitment with respect to CSDP consolidation. This topic will be definitely listed also on the agenda of the future Foreign Affairs Council reunions, when important decisions and recommendations will be made on the participation of the third states to PESCO projects, the launching of the next packages of projects, and the respecting of the commitments pledged by the PESCO participant states.

For Romania, the PESCO initiative translates into major opportunities that help consolidate its own profile within EU on the security and defence dimension, in accordance with the defence policy assumed at national level.



Major Procurement Programs – Top Priority of the Romanian Ministry of National Defence

Placed in a complex geo-political position, Romania acknowledges the importance of an enhanced forward presence in the Baltic States and Poland, thus, focusing on the consolidation of the Eastern flank of the Alliance.

Consequently, consolidation of our country's profile as regional provider of security and stability within NATO and EU stands for the main objective of the Ministry of National Defence.

The Romanian Armed Forces participate in joint exercises and training programs with the allied states and partners, increasing resources and troops allocated in support of NATO and EU operations and missions.

At the same time, Romania continues and intensifies its efforts and measures to consolidate defence and security alongside the allies and partners by honoring its undertaken commitments. One of these commitments refers to the allocation of 2% of the GDP for defence expenditures on a 10-year period, until 2026.

The Romanian Armed Forces' Procurement Program for 2017-2026 timeframe consists of eight major elements and was developed in accordance with the allocated funds, the document being approved by Decision of Homeland Defence Supreme Council (HDSC). Each major procurement program exceeds 100 million euros and was approved by the Romanian Parliament.

The total costs of the procurement programs will be established after a final decision made on the technical and operational requirements of the Romanian military and the course of

Eight major procurement programs are to be initiated:

- The multi-purpose corvettes that translates into the acquisition of four corvettes and adjacent equipment;
- Mobile anti-ship missile launchers;
- The modernization of the MLI-84M infantry fighting vehicles that includes 48 fighting vehicles;
- 8x8 and 4x4 armoured personnel carrier; during the first stage, 94 vehicles out of the 657 would be acquired;
- C4I system (command, control, communications, computers and information technology) with ISTAR integration capabilities;
- Advanced surface-to-air missile (ASAM) systems – four for the Land Forces and three for the Air Force;
- SHORAD-VSHORAD integrated weapon systems;
- Long range multiple launch rocket systems.

action to be followed while running the acquisition strategy.

Romania consolidates its naval defence capabilities

In order to accomplish their specific missions in this difficult political-military international context, the Romanian Naval Forces must have a modern, credible and balanced force structure, similar to the other states bordering the Black Sea Region.

The most efficient surface warfare ships in the littoral region are the "corvette-type" ones, with medium speed engines and able to accomplish the entire range of missions in and outside the Black Sea Region, at the same time being autonomous and having nautical qualities that can enable them to conduct actions in difficult hydro-weather conditions.

The procurement of new corvettes, due to their estimated life-cycle which go up to 30 years and that can be further extended by successive modernization works, offers the Romanian Naval Forces the necessary





➤ PIRAHNA Armoured Wheeled Vehicle

operational confidence in order to accomplish their specific medium and long-term assigned missions.

At present, the modernization of T-22 R frigates is taken into account, as part of the acquisition process of the multi-purpose corvettes by making the most of the offset of this major procurement program.

“Multi-purpose corvettes” convey operational confidence

- Conduct military operations, independently or as part of international task forces in order to ensure the integrity of the maritime space;
- Participate in national and international law enforcement operations in the territorial waters, contiguous area and economic exclusive zone;
- Conduct maritime security operations and search & rescue activities at sea;
- Ensure permanent reconnaissance of the littoral and of the Black Sea Region;
- Support the other Romanian Armed Forces’ Services;
- Participate in international operations and missions according to the approved plans.

Corvettes will operate as a warfare multitask unit within a maritime taskforce or alone. The corvettes and the two T 22 frigates will make up, on rotational basis, a group of vessels that will be at NATO’s disposal with a view of meeting the commitments undertaken by Romania.

According to HDSC’s Decisions, the “Multi-purpose corvettes” Program is an essential procurement program meant to provide for Romania’s security interests. On February 15th, the Government of Romania approved the decision on the circumstances and the specific procedures for the “Multifunctional corvette” Procurement Program.

US Congress Approved the Acquisition of HIMARS System to Equip the Romanian Armed Forces

The acquisition of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) is one of the main eight procurement programs established in the 2017–2026 Romanian Defence Procurement Plan for which the Parliament agreed, in May this year, to initiate the procedures to assign the relevant contracts.

The US Congress approved, in agreement with the American standard procedures, Romania’s request to purchase 54 HIMARS launchers and auxiliary equipment for three combat battalions.

The choice to equip the Romanian Armed Forces with the HIMARS system derives from the need to have modern artillery equipment, able to contribute to strengthening the national defence capability and to increase interoperability with the allied forces, by having in place a reliable deterrence capability.

HIMARS is one of the most precise combat support systems tested and

used in real missions by the US Army and Marine Corps. The HIMARS reliability rate and interoperability degree between the US and Allied forces reduce the final operational and maintenance costs.

The draft law for the implementation of “Indirect fire support capability” adjacent to the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) was adopted by the Government of Romania on February 15th. The paper stipulates the granting of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance – type state contracts specific to the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Program with a view of procuring 54 HIMARS launchers and their auxiliary equipment: ammunition, C2 elements, sensors, logistic support, maintenance, cryptographic equipment, and personnel’s training.

The acquisition of HIMARS augments the essential ground defence capabilities meant to significantly contribute to NATO collective defence:

- increase reaction time;
- increase the depth of the hit;
- successfully tested in combat in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria;
- high-mobility and C130 transportable;
- top of the line in NATO reactive/self-propelled artillery, the MLRS’ successor.

Besides the advantage of their superior precision, HIMARS are also equipped with an integrated researchable system which is time saving, enabling the increase of the firing speed.

Acquisition of Patriot missile system to equip the Romanian Armed Forces, approved by the US Congress

For the Patriot surface-to-air missile procurement program, the Ministry of National Defence will submit to the Romanian Parliament’s approval a special draft law on the procurement of this system, while the acquisition process will take place following negotiations and the signing of an agreement between the Romanian and USA governments.

Minister of Defence Mihai Fifor stated that the first Patriot missile system will have been procured by the end of 2017. The Romanian part is waiting for the US letter of acceptance, so that it can initiate the contracting procedures and procure the first such system. The Romanian delegation has officially requested the Dependable Undertaking clause arrangements for the procurement programs, during the talks with Secretary of Defence Mattis.

The MoND intends to pay in November the first installment for the acquisition of seven Patriot missile systems in its most updated configuration namely PAC-3 Plus, which incorporate the latest technologies developed for this type of defensive armament.

Thus, delivery of the first missile system to Romania will take place next year, our country joining five other NATO member states which hold Patriot batteries (Germany, Greece, Spain, Netherlands and United States of America). Also, Poland is another country which made a request for the procurement of these systems.

Following negotiations and procurement of this system, the MoND intends that its producer collaborates with the Romanian defence industry in order to identify the most adequate local suppliers and support national companies in developing their own manufacturing technology of the Patriot components.

The Ministry of National Defence received on November 1st the Letter of Acceptance from the U.S. government regarding the acquisition of the mobile long-range surface-to-air PATRIOT missile system.

The system that will equip the Air Defence Staff and the Land Forces Staff is one of seven planned to be bought for a total of \$3.9 billion USD before VAT.

The Letter of Acceptance was received for an acquisition estimated at \$764.8 million before VAT by the end of 2017, after the Parliament approved the draft law regarding this capability. The 3+ configuration acquired by Romania is the most modern type on the market in terms of the hardware and software

configuration of the ground equipment of the missiles.

The ceremony for the signing of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance in order to initiate the acquisition of the PATRIOT High Surface-to-Air Missiles systems took place on November 29th, at the MoND headquarters, in the presence of Defence Minister Mihai Fifor and of the US Ambassador in Romania, Hans Klemm.

American defense group Raytheon announced that it signed a 396 million \$ contract with US Army for the production of Patriot surface-to-air missile (SAM) system for Romania. Announced by the Department of Defense on May 24, the contract calls for Raytheon to build Romania's first brand-new Patriot fire unit.

The PATRIOT systems will enter the service of the Romanian Land and Air Forces the second part of year 2019, the first system being scheduled to achieve full operational capability at the middle of 2020.

Shorad-Vshorad Integrated Weapon Systems Procurement Program

The latest evolutions of the regional security environment and the changes of the geopolitical context Romania is part of, asked for the implementation of certain measures at the MoND level

with a view of increasing the Romanian Armed Forces' readiness and the procurement of modern equipment. The wide range of threats caused that the importance of the surface-to-air missile systems significantly increased over the last period, taking into consideration their main missions: protecting the troops, facilities and population against offensive air attacks and countering terrorist elements which target military technologies.

The goal of the procurement program is to equip the air defence structures with SHORAD-VSHORAD integrated weapon systems that can provide for:

- Mission accomplishment at peace, war and during contingency and participation in air operations against the enemy's air forces for immediate air defence;
- Countering of the current threats and enabling participation in countering potential threats with the available weapon systems.

Projects Intended to Involve the National Defence Industry

The Romanian Government defined the first economic and military large scale cooperation with the German company Rheinmetall as a strategic project. It is a complex project, of interest for both countries. The project is conducted by Uzina Mecanică



Moreni and Rheinmetall Company. On November 29th, 2017, the Government of Romania adopted the decision approving the circumstances and the procedure specific to the first phase of "8x8 Armoured Fighting Vehicle" Procurement Program, with a view of setting a framework agreement for the delivery of 227 Infantry armoured Fighting Vehicles (IFV) Piranha V. The signing ceremony for the acquisition contract of 227 Infantry armoured Fighting Vehicles (IFV) Piranha V and its initial logistic support took place on January 12th, at the defence ministry HQ, in the attendance of defence minister Mihai Fifor and vice-prime minister Marcel Ciolacu. Starting with 2018, the infantry armoured fighting vehicle will gradually be manufactured and enter into the service of the Romanian Armed Forces. The MoND will be able to offer maintenance throughout the entire life-cycle of the equipment. The Infantry armored Fighting Vehicle PIRANHA V is the most advanced platform for troops' transportation, equipped with the latest ballistic protection and fire-power systems existing in NATO.

The MoND representatives had official meetings with another APC manufacturer, General Dynamics European Land Systems company, subsidiary of General Dynamics Corporation. The meeting agenda included topics such as identifying ways to achieve partnerships at the national defence industry level, developing a joint venture to secure the transfer of the state-of-art technology. The MoND intends to procure the first 10 Piranha armored personnel carriers, as part of this program by the end of the year.

Discussions have taken place on the renewal of the helicopter fleet, a letter being already signed by the defence minister, in the presence of the Romanian Prime-Minister and representatives of Bell Helicopters, and sent in order to ask for details on the availability and price of the attack helicopters.

Also, the representatives of the defence industry from Braşov signed cooperation projects with Airbus Helicopters company.

Steps Made Towards the Procurement of the Second F-16 Squadron...

The building of the air defence capability as part of the "Romanian Air Force multirole aircraft" Program, adopted by HDSC Decision no S – 70/2012, refers to the phased equipping of the Romanian Air Force with 48 aircraft. After analysis made by specialists in the field, the acquisition of a first lot of F-16 aircraft from Portugal was decided upon, this type of aircraft making the transition to fifth generation fighters easier.

So far, twelve F-16 aircraft have entered the service of the Romanian Air Force, the last three being delivered at the end of September 2017.

In order to procure the aircraft that will be part of the second squadron, a letter was sent to the US Government on the price and availability of 36 F-16 aircraft.

As the acquisition value exceeds 100 million euros, the initiation of the procedures require a prior approval from the Romanian Parliament, the procurement program being one of the eight major programs that have already been approved.

Steps taken by the Romanian Government in order to build a Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System on Romanian territory

The Government issued a Government Ordinance with respect to the specific procedure on the "Mobile Surface-to-ship Missile Launching System" procurement program. According to the Acquisition Strategy and the Concept Study on the cost information, the estimated value for the procurement for a mobile surface-to-ship missile launching system amounts at least 137 million euro (without VAT). The fundamental requirement stipulated by the Romanian Armed Forces is that the economic agent that will be awarded the multiannual contract builds an industrial capability on our national territory. The procurement program was approved in the

reunion of Romania's Government of August 23rd.

The Ministry of National Defence received the Parliament's preliminary approval to initiate two more procurement programs

On June 6th, the Parliament approved the initiation by the MoND of the procedures for the awarding of the procurement contract of the Multifunctional Wheeled Transportation Platforms as well as the contract for the upgrading of the IAR-99 Şoim aircraft to the IAR-99 Super Şoim configuration.

In 2017, the Romanian Armed Forces' Transformation, Development and Acquisition Program until 2026 and beyond nominated the "Multifunctional Wheeled Transportation Platforms" procurement program as a top-priority one due to the fact that it directly contributes to the increase of the readiness level of the Romanian military. The MoND needs 13,963 full transportation platforms which will be procured in several installments. In the first stage, between 2018 and 2027, the MoND will procure 3,385 transportation platforms, the value of the framework agreements being estimated at around 737 million euro (without VAT).

The exact value of the contract is to be set following the acquisition process. This procurement program aims at involving the Romanian companies in the manufacturing process of these multifunctional transportation platforms.

The need to initiate the upgrading program of the IAR-99 Şoim aircraft derives from the equipping of the multirole F-16 aircraft, which asks for an advanced training platform by reconfiguring the avionics and flight control systems. The new configuration of the IAR-99 Super Şoim platform aims at increasing the reliability of the board installations and systems, and of the aircraft lifecycle. This acquisition program is intended to involve the national industry capabilities.



Everyone is a winner

Over 3,000 people participated in the third cross competition dedicated to the war veterans, *VeteRUN-Centenar*, in the Capital City.

The activity, organized by the Ministry of National Defence, in partnership with Bucharest City Hall, Bucharest Municipal Sports Club and with the support of the National Association of War Veterans, gathers more and more people, each year.

By preserving the same route – Presei Libere Square, Kisselef Avenue, the Arch of Triumph, Victoriei Square; return through Aviatorilor Avenue, Charles de Gaulle Square, Marshal Constantin Prezan Avenue, Arch of Triumph and Presei Libere Square-*VeteRUN* competition became the perfect meeting framework between the civilians and soldiers, both Romanian and foreigners, brought together by the respect for the war veterans.

The main competition was 6,700 meters long, but there were also shorter options for the little ones, varying from 600 to 1,000 meters, based on their age. The start was given by the defence minister, Mihai Fifor.

“A new edition of the Veterans’ Race-VeteRUN, a special edition, due to the fact that it takes place the same year the Centenary is celebrated. It seems like we exceeded last year’s record; we are 3,000 participants and we are very pleased with this because Bucharest inhabitants support these ideas”, stated the defence minister.

The winner of the competition was soldier Andrei Ștefana, from 26th Infantry Battalion “Neagoe Basarab”, from Craiova, a soldier and experienced athlete, Balkanic champion and multiple national champion.

But not all participants were part of this category. Adriana Brădișteanu, a 38-year-old inhabitant of Bucharest, participated in the same race and managed to reach the finish line! *“I found out about the event from the athletics instructor of my children. I came to enlist my little ones and I chose to compete. I managed to run over 6,000 meters, although I am not a athlete, Adriana proudly admits, at the end of the race.”* Famous athletes joined the competition, and

for many runners, the participation became a tradition. The start of the 1,000 meters race was given by marius Lăcătuș, while Andrei Marica, aged 17, was the first to cross over the finish line. *“I also participated last year and I saw how wonderful the race is, especially due to the fact that, in the end, I had the opportunity to shake hands with all veterans. They did something for our country and we can reward them”,* said the young man.

At the end of the competition, the participants could visit exhibition stalls displaying pieces of armaments, the Military band of 30th Mihai Viteazul Guard Brigade offered an artistic performance, while the Drill team presented weaponry handling procedures.

“I passed by the presentation stands and I am tempted to pursue a career in the Land Forces, more exactly, at the Special Forces. I was impressed by the soldiers activating in this structure out of respect for those who fought during the war” said Rareș Țânțăreanu, aged 13, who participated in the competition for the first time.

The awarding festivity was organized on the terrace of Berăria H. The competitions were not timed, but the first three runners from each category differentiated by age and gender, were awarded: certificates, medals, subscriptions at *Steaua* Sports Club swimming pools or spending a day in a military unit of the Land, Air and Naval Forces, as part of the *Soldier for a day* Programme.

The event was attended by the Minister of National Defence, Mihai Fifor, the Romanian Chief of Defence Staff, General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, the State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations, Mircea Dușa and by the Chairman of the National Association of the War Veterans, General (ret) Marin Badea Dragnea.

VeteRUN Competition was also organized at over 4,000 km away, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where the soldiers of Force Protection Battalion *Vulturii Carpaților* showed their respect and appreciation to the war veterans, wishing them good health and thanking for everything they accomplished for us and our children.

“The Cult of Heroes” in Interwar Romania

The *cult of heroes* tradition is probably one of the most conservatory aspects from the history of humanity. From Antiquity up to present, the bodies of the servicemen who died during the military conflicts were worthy of respect, their sacrifice being considered a gesture of civic conduct.

Once with the I World War, the hero myth got new significances; at the end of this conflagration, the Unknown Soldier's Grave project was established in several European states, according to the Belgian and French models, as a way of respect for the sacrifice made by all anonymous people who died in war. Other complementary symbols of this project were the war cemeteries, the

commemorative plaques containing the names of the dead people placed on the public buildings and the homage paid to the heroes in certain days.

The increased quality of equipment and weaponry, the length and amplitude of war made that the number of victims exceeded any figure registered in the history of wars up to that time. The statistics accurately indicate the disaster: approximately 10 million lives lost in this huge human tragedy, the I World War. Romania did not make an exception from this tragedy either...

At the end of I World War, after the signing of the peace agreements during the Peace conference from Paris (through 1919-1920), Romania succeeded in obtaining the international acknowledgement of the acts of union signed at Chişinău (27.03.1918), Cernăuţi (28.11.1918) and Alba Iulia (01.12.1918), thus, completing its long-desired territorial and national unity by its predecessors.

This could not have been possible without the sacrifice of over 330,000 Romanian people who lost their lives in the battlefields. The need to look after their graves led to the establishment of the Society “Graves of the Heroes Fallen in the War”, by Royal Decree no. 4106 of September 12 1919, under the patronage of Queen Mary, presided by His Holiness, Romania's Patriarch; the society exclusively administers, operates and maintains the war cemeteries and monuments.

Paying homage to our country's heroes in a special day and in a festive ceremony was one of the major obligations of this Society. By *Decree-law no. 1693 of May 4 1920*, The Heroes' Day was declared a legal holiday which was to be grandiosely celebrated “at religious, educational, military and

national levels” in the Ascension Day of the Lord (the 40th day after the Easter). That day, all “Romanian Heroes” of all time as well as “all Heroes fallen on duty on Romanian territory, no matter their nationality or religion” had to be celebrated.

Nominating an anonymous hero as a symbol of all people fallen on duty during I World War was another way of recognizing the sacrifice made by our predecessors. The society worked hard to materialize this idea, by organizing ceremonials through 14-17 May 1923, which culminated with the interment of the Unknown Heroes' remains in Carol I Park.

In 1928, the “Cult of Heroes” Society set up the “Remembrance Sign to commemorate and honor of each family who had a son, husband or father who lost their lives in the war – a plaque built by ceramics or bronze–, which was to be placed on the facade of the house of the fallen heroes, in a visible spot, by their relatives.

Throughout its 29-year history (1919-1948), the Society functioned based on a Status and under several titles – but preserved its objective, organization, functions and property – thus: “The Graves of the Heroes Fallen in War” Society (1919-1927), “The Cult of Heroes” Society (1927-1940), “Queen Mary” National Establishment for the Cult of Heroes (1940-1947) and “The cult of Heroes” Establishment (1947-1948).

The institution was disestablished by *Decree no. 48 of the Great National Gathering of May 29 1948* and by *Decision of the Ministers' Council no. 297 of June 8 1948*; its entire property, as well as the task to preserve and maintain the war commemorative monuments were assigned to the Ministry of National Defence.



➤ The
Unknown
Soldier's
Monument

Latest achievements in military nuclear medicine

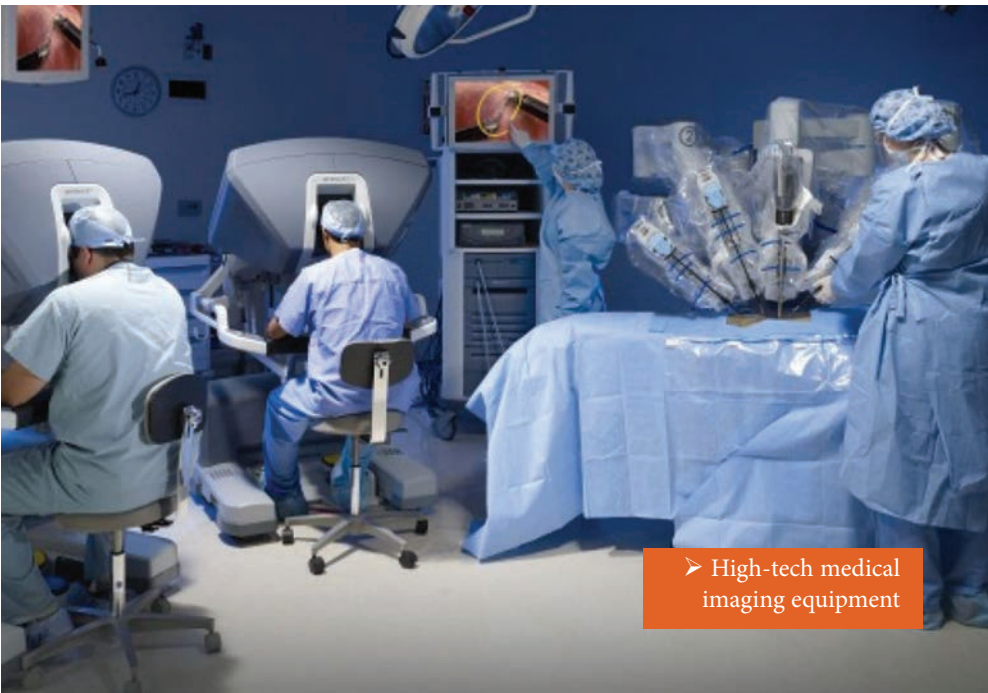
On February 21st, Carol Davila Central Military Emergency University Hospital (CMEUH) inaugurated the Integrated Center of Nuclear Medicine, equipped with the highest performance technology in detecting oncologic, cardiovascular and neurological disorders. The project, implemented by the CMEUH leadership, with the MoND support, aimed at developing an overall medical infrastructure through the association of the PET CT with SPECT CT investigations that will provide the patients with high specialty diagnostic services, at European quality standards.

The construction and equipping of the Integrated Center of Nuclear Medicine implied the spending of significant funds, the total value of the investment going up to 4,368,006 euro with VAT, which also envisaged the costs for the training of the medical personnel operating this equipment. At the same time, all specialty approvals from the Public Health Direction Bucharest and the National Commission for the Nuclear Activity Control (CNCAN) were received so that the center can legally function and the diagnostic medical activity can be initiated.

It is for the first time when PET CT and SPECT CT imaging equipments are operated in our laboratory. The SPECT CT system provides a high quality scintigraphic investigation and the novelty consists in the possibility to couple the scintigraphic imaging (SPECT) with a CT one (computerized tomography) that will increase the precision in tumor localization and accuracy in diagnostic imaging. The majority of the PET CT investigations are related to the oncology pathology. Also, a small number of neurological and cardiologic conditions can be detected through this examination. An important aspect is that the SPECT CT isotopic investigations will be reimbursed by the National Health Insurance House (NHIH) and address all patients that can get an appointment by calling a phone number that will be listed on the CMEUH website. The reimbursement of the PET CT oncologic investigations will be possible only after the inclusion into the NHIH program. The medical personnel operating the imaging equipment was further developed both in the country and abroad programs, the Integrated Center of Nuclear Medicine currently having three nuclear medicine physicians (2 of them are radiology imaging specialists and one is physician), four nurses and technical specialty personnel.

The Performance of the medical equipment

The Investment into the Discovery MI Digital Ready System and QClear technology ensures (in the segment of the imaging services) all facilities required in order to set a precise diagnostic due to the latest technology and, implicitly, to the following medical achievements: increased efficiency in detecting small lesions (under 2 mm), elimination of medical hypotheses through the differentiated diagnostic and deciding on the future therapeutic conduit, either medical or/and surgical, monitoring the efficiency of the treatment regimen, increase the scanning speed with multiple image reconstruction techniques. The technology gives the patients the opportunity to benefit from non-invasive specialty investigations with the use of radiotracers (a radioactive substance with affinity for several organs, which is introduced into the body in different ways of administration, the intravenous way being the most frequently and commonly used method) that generate functional and molecular imaging which indicate the alterations of the organs and tissues explored, without any other side effects. Patients



➤ High-tech medical imaging equipment



➤ High-tech medical imaging equipment



➤ Corneal Transplant Surgery



➤ Major Physician Laura Macovei, coordinator of the National Corneal Transplant Program of CMEUH

can have all these with the administration of a minimum radiation dose (the lowest existing on the market), without influencing the quality of the diagnostic.

The SPECT CT Discovery 670 DR allows the positioning of the equipment in different scanning angles, ranging from 0.90 to 180 degrees, which enables the conduct of investigations in several areas of interest: cardiology, oncology, endocrinology,

gynecology, renal, neurology, orthopedics, traumatology, inflammatory and infectious diseases etc.

A first in public health system-partial cornea transplant through DMEK technique

The ophthalmology Clinic of the CMEUH performed for the first time in the public health system: the endothelial transplant surgical intervention through *Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty* (DMEK), used in selective cases, namely in pathologies which affect the internal corneal layer. The surgery of the corneal condition was done by Major Physician Laura Macovei, coordinator of the National Corneal Transplant Program of CMEUH. The beneficiary of the transplant was a 69-year old female patient ensured at the National Health Insurance House, who had been diagnosed with Fuchs endothelial dystrophy, in an advanced stage.

This type of surgical intervention indicated in the diseases of the corneal endothelium has several advantages for the patients: small surgical incision, less intraoperative complications compared to the ones emerging during perforated transplant, fast curing, rapid eyesight improvement, reduced postoperative astigmatism, persistence of the grafting and an extremely low rejection rate.

The patient had a favorable postoperative evolution, with a considerable increase of eyesight in short and medium-term, the surgical effect encouraging the approach off all similar cases through this endothelial transplant type. We must specify that the endothelial transplant through DMEK procedure is totally reimbursed by the national health insurance system. This is a modern partial corneal transplant procedure which provides for the replacement of the extremely thin posterior part (the endothelium and *Descemet* membrane, 10-15 microns) of the patient's cornea.

Due to the delicate and complex surgical maneuvers approached during the endothelial transplant, this type of ophthalmological surgery is a challenge not only from the perspective of the preparation of the donor tissue but also from the positioning of the grafting in the eye of the receiving patient.

Also, we need to emphasize the fact that, during the overspecialization in this type of ophthalmological surgery, the learning curve is slower and steep in order to become able to master standard reproducibility manipulation techniques of the donor endothelium.

Surgical premiere in the medical military system

On February 6th, a total ablation of the thymus surgery (a gland located in the upper anterior part of the thorax, above the heart) was performed on a patient diagnosed with *Myasthenia gravis* by transcervical approach.

The thymectomy surgery for *Myasthenia gravis* was made by Major Physician Adrian Mihail Iordache (coordinating physician), Captain Physician Daniel Pantile, specialists in thorax surgery and Physician Diana Băbean, resident at the same specialty, the anesthesia and intensive care component

being provided for by Colonel Physician Narcis Tănase, and resident physician Ligia Iulia Torsin.

The medical team chose this type of surgical procedure taking into consideration the fact that the beneficiary of the surgical correction was a 23-year old patient, to whom a classic incision could have caused a major postoperative psychological trauma through the formation of unaesthetic scar.

The advantages of this type of approach are given to the minimal invasion of intervention (a single low cervical incision, of approximately 4 cm, the transsternal approach being made through complete median sternotomy), the lack of pleural drainage if the pleura has not been intraoperative opened (advantage towards the thoracoscopic approach, which will mandatorily drain the pleura with at least one drainage tube) but also by the intubation time -the selective intubation with the ventilation of a single lung is not necessary-compulsory requirement when performing toracoscopic thymectomy).

The postoperative evolution consisted in a rapid recovery process, the patient leaving the hospital the third day after the surgery, without needing broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy, blood transfusion or any other such products, all these leading to a rapid reinsertion into her social life.

The patient addressed our specialists for a symptomatology specific to Myasthenia gravis (autoimmune disease which attacks the receptors at the level of the musculature), whose symptomatology is expressed through an abnormal tiredness at the level of the voluntary muscles, ocular signs (palpebral ptosis, diplopia), the lack of facial expression, dysphagia with nasal regurgitation of liquids, falling of mandible, weakening of the neck and back muscles, weakening of the pelvic muscles and difficulty in the repeated raising of the objects and during walking. Myasthenia gravis is part of the autoimmune diseases and, even though is not frequently

diagnosed, affecting between 2 to 20 cases in 100,000 people, it is an important concern of the physicians and researchers on the affected age segment, especially young women aged 20-30.

This surgical procedure has been practiced in Carol Davila CHMEU, Thoracic Surgery Section, for several years, but with transsternal or left thoracoscopic approach.

During the last thirty years, transcervical approach began to gain ground, once with the appearance of the video-assisted minimally invasive surgery techniques.



➤ Total ablation of thymus



Rebirth of Cantacuzino Institute

Since its establishment in 1921, by Royal Decree, the institute has dealt with laboratory analyses for patients, lab analyses for the monitoring of the infectious diseases (public health surveillance), education, research and output. We estimate that the institute products have saved millions of lives and have prevented the same number of people from sickening.

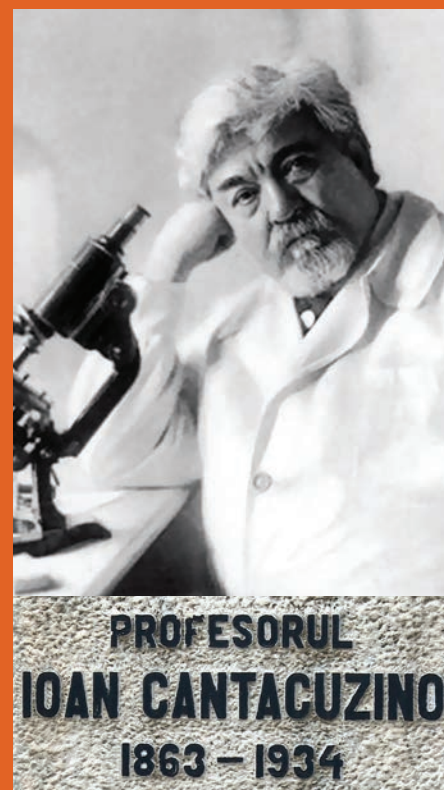
Currently, the Medical-Military Institute for Research and Development is the main structure that deals with the microbiology and public health immunology, at the same time, continuing the Romanian school tradition in this field.

The institute employees' activity focuses on four development directions: diagnosis and microbiological surveillance for public health, continuous medical education,

manufacturing of biological products and R&D in microbiology and immunology.

If, in 1999, the Institute's products were displayed in a 30-page catalogue, nowadays only a single food supplement product is manufactured for commercialization, diagnosis reagents and growing media, serums and blood derivatives, lab animals and combined granulated forages.

The institute conducted its research activity even during the most difficult periods. The number of researchers decreased to 53. But the real figure of research specialists is smaller, the most difficult issue being the successful management of the liaison among the manufacturing processes: surveillance, lab analyses and research. And, as expected, the number of projects decreased.



➤ Medical Laboratory of Cantacuzino Institute

After MoND's taking over of the Institute command, the organizational chart counted 1075 positions. In case of winning the projects the institute bided for, 40 more researcher positions should be manned; should the output of the flu and BCG vaccines be restarted, over 100 specialists must be hired.

The current team of specialist aims to respect the same guidelines set by Professor Cantacuzino. The accreditation procedures in the field of the medical analyses for the patients should be reinitiated and, if approved, the building of a laboratory and of a clinic in Pavilion A (currently closed down) will be mandatory.

Currently, it is necessary to train a significant number of young doctors and biologists in the field of public health analyses. The centers in this field function at a reduced capacity and can ensure the evaluation and surveillance only if large-scale epidemiological events do not occur. Post-academic courses must be organized, including for the personnel manning the institute, for a better awareness of their position and of the importance of public health surveillance.

It is cardinal that the Medical-Military Institute for Research and Development regain its leadership position in the field of the training of the students, resident and specialist physicians and in the fostering of the primary physicians, also.

It is recommendable that the institute select high-class and professional, well-trained specialists in the field of the dissemination of the technical and scientific information among the youth.

Also, the Institute should organize technical, professional meetings with specialists of the National Agency for and Medicines Medical Device. The Government's decision in turning the institute into a future national producer of vaccines implies the close monitoring of all current files, of the spaces, medical devices and other such equipment as well as of the current versus the necessary positions to be manned in the future. Pavilion A should be consolidated, renovated



➤ Medical Laboratory of Cantacuzino Institute



➤ Medical equipment

and equipped so that it can become useful in all pre-established courses of action. The growth medium cultures could be placed in the basement by following the strictest protection rules. Likewise, a medical analyses laboratory and a clinic for daily consultations could be organized in this Pavilion. At the same time, we can create here educational and research spaces and even preparatory laboratory classes for the people that are to work at the latest products manufactured by the Institute.

The Manager of *Catacuzino* Institute is Academic Professor Physician Mircea Popa, former chief of Microbiology

Section, of Carol Davila Medicine and Pharmacy University. He accepted this position as a duty towards *Cantacuzino* and Romania's public health. The emerging challenges and tasks are numerous and very few people to accomplish them. The subordination of Medical-Military Institute for Research and Development to the MoND brings about establishment of a new military unit with a special internal regulation, a TO&E, an administration board etc. All the tasks are currently accomplished by several servicemen detached from other units until the positions opened will be filled.

Restoration works at Băile Herculane & Caraiman Cross Heroes Monument

The consolidation, restoration and modernization of the Military Hospital “King Ferdinand I - Hotel Băile Herculane”

Băile Herculane, one of the oldest spa resorts in the world, is famous for its miraculous thermal waters. The World Tourism Organization recognizes our country as the European state with the most mineral springs. In fact, about a third of Europe's mineral springs are concentrated in Romania.

The legend says that the Romans discovered the thermal springs with the help of their horses. The horses, full of wounds and illnesses, coming after long wars and campaigns, bathed instinctively in the water of the first

thermal spring, which is Venera Spring. After a while, the soldiers saw that these animals had been healed, especially since the water of this spring was very effective for scabies. They reported to their superiors, and then the Roman administration decided to establish here, in Cerna Valley, a resort that shortly become famous in all corners of the Roman Empire.

At present, **Băile Herculane** is one of the most efficient resorts in the world in treating a wide range of diseases, where preventive, curative and rehabilitation treatments are successfully practiced here.

On April 2018, the Government of Romania adopted the Government Decision by which the Military Medical Sanatorium “King Ferdinand I Hotel - Băile Herculane” entered

the property of public goods and the administration of the Ministry of National Defense.

The building is included in the List of Historical Monuments and is located in Hercules Square in the center of the city, a linear market, with a single row of surrounding parks, occupied by buildings with historic and architectural significance.

The proposed works to be carried out will be split into two categories: **preservation works** in order to preserve the monument in welfare and to prolong its physical existence through repair, maintenance and consolidation works as well as **restoration and architectural works** to restore the facade of the monument back to its original appearance, in the idea of preserving its homogenous aspect.



The restoration works will aim at preserving the shape and decorations of the initial building, its structural consolidation, trying to adapt the hotel function proposed by the owner of the building, without significantly modifying the original concept of the building. The refurbishment operations will mainly consist in providing the modern functions currently required by the hotel classification rules.

Proposals for conservation and restoration will be submitted by qualified designers, accredited by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Public Works and supervised by the competent institutions.

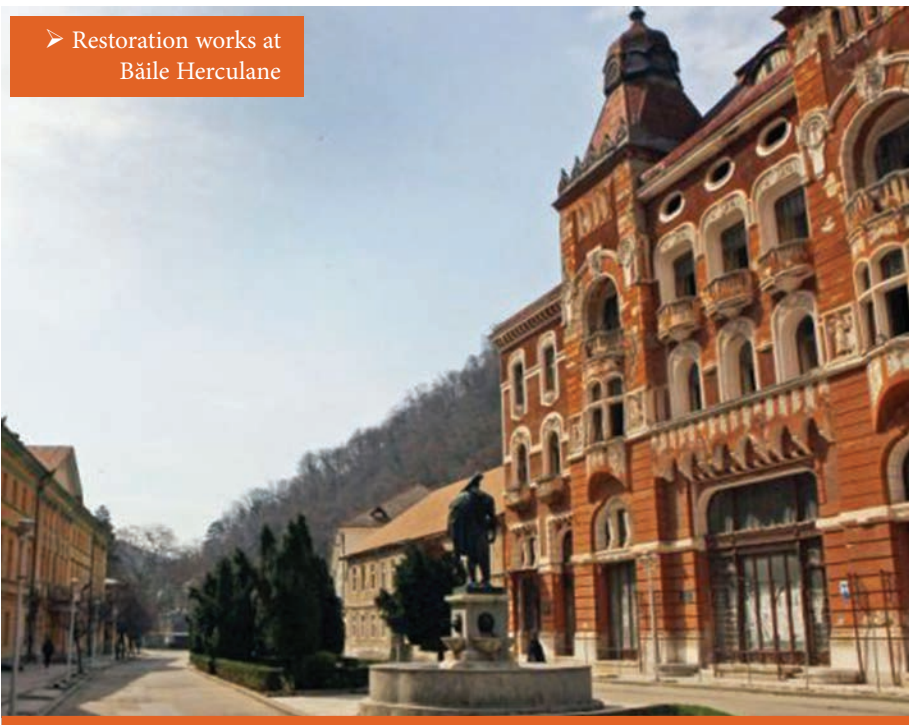
The timeline for the project completion is 36 months, with an estimated value of the project of approximately 23,000,000 lei.

“Thus, in two years we will have a new base for the rehabilitation of the wounded soldiers in the theaters of operations, but also an architectural jewel recovered”, Defense Minister Mihai Fifor declared.

European funds for the rehabilitation of the Cross Heroes Monument Caraiman Peak Mountain

The Ministry of National Defense (MoD), through its real estate-specific structures, has stepped up its efforts to identify real estate projects that can be used to attract European funding, by successfully participating in Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRAP) calls for projects on the real estate investment domain.

In this context, one has to emphasize the fact that we managed to obtain the funds for the implementation of the real estate project “Restoration, rehabilitation, preservation and arrangement of an exhibition space in the Monument of the Romanian Heroes’ Memorial Cross from I World War (The Caraiman Cross Heroes Monument), a project for which the contract financing was signed and the execution of the works was initiated.



➤ Restoration works at Băile Herculane



➤ Restoration works at Caraiman Cross Heroes Monument

The Caraiman Cross Heroes Monument is the symbol of the Romanian soldiers’ heroism and a sign of the Romanian people’s faith, being enlisted in the List of Historical Monument under PH-IV-Mon-A-16887- The Romanian Heroes Cross, I World War Memorial.

The Heroes’ Monument is situated in the central area of Bucegi Mountains, at the Eastern boundary of the plateau,

at an altitude of 2,291 meters, which visually dominates Prahova Valley.

Considering the emotional feelings that the monument can transmit as part of the Centenary of the Romanian society and beyond, it was included in “Romania 100” National Programme. This programme includes all manifestations occasioned by the anniversary (on December 1st 2018) of 100 years since the



unification of the Romanian national state, the monument being subject of rehabilitation works. For this purpose, in 2016, the Government of Romania approved the transfer of the historical monument from the public domain of Busteni County into the public domain of the state and in the administration of the Ministry of National Defense.

The first materials for the renovation of the Caraiman Cross were airlifted by helicopter. The project entitled “Restoration, rehabilitation, preservation and arrangement of an exhibition space in the Monument of the Romanian Heroes’ Memorial Cross from I World War (Caraiman Cross Heroes Monument on Caraiman Peak)” is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, through the Regional Operational Program (ROP) 2014-2020 (coordinated by MDRAP).

The contract financing was signed by MoND and MDRAP, and the contractors of the monument restoration works began to airlift the materials necessary for organizing a site on Caraiman Peak, in August. The Caraiman Cross, built between 1926 and 1928, was designated the world’s highest cross on a mountain peak, according to the Guinness World Record. The works will be coordinated by Sibiu Real Estate and Infrastructure Center no. 3, as part of the Real Estate and Infrastructure Directorate.

The total value of the project is 19,000,000 lei, of which the amount of approximately 16,500,000 lei represents non-reimbursable foreign funding, while 2,500,000 lei represents the co-financing of the eligible expenditures ensured by the Ministry of National Defense, the deadline of the rehabilitation works being set for 36 months.

The uniqueness of the monument is incontestable. This is due to its historical, cultural, geographical, symbolic role as well as its aesthetics - especially through the elegance of architectural design, the simplicity of solutions and the workmanship built especially at the level of details, and last but not least, the efforts made for its edification.

The Caraiman Cross will gain a new glow after restoration until December 31, 2020. We cannot finish our brief evocation of the monument’s past, present and future without emphasizing the fact that the completion of the investment will produce long – terms effects by transmitting to the consciousness of future generations the vivid emotion of eternal gratitude for the heroism of the soldiers who sacrificed in I World War for the reunification of the Romanian people.

Our injured soldiers – ready for “Invictus Games Sydney 2018”

Invincus project uses the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a better understanding and respect for all who were wounded while serving their country.

Sport is an excellent method for a successful physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society. Setting up our own goals helps us forget about the wounds, heal our soul, regain faith in our forces and offers the motivation we all need to go on.

After a first successful participation at the “Invictus Games”, encouraged by their supporters but also by the exceptional results scored at Toronto, our injured soldiers train to hoist Romania’s flag at the “Invictus Games Sydney 2018”.

15 wounded soldiers out of the total of 41 extended lot will represent the Romanian Armed Forces at “Invictus Games Sydney 2018”, at 6 individual disciplines (archery, paralympic athletics and swimming, indoor rowing, power lifting and cycling), and a team sport (sitting volleyball).

The 15 components of the team are:

- **Col. Augustin Pegulescu**, wounded in 2009 in Afghanistan, currently the commander of Timiș Zonal Military Center, will participate in “Invictus Games Sydney 2018” at archery and sitting volleyball.
- **Col. (rtr) Dorin Petruț**, wounded in 2007, in Iraq, will represent the Romanian Armed Forces at archery – compound discipline.
- **Lt. Col. Nicolae Grigore**, injured in 2007, in Afghanistan, assigned within the MoND Security, Guard and Intervention Detachment will take part in power-lifting, paralympic athletics – long jump and sitting volleyball.
- **Lt. Col. Laurențiu Șerban**, wounded in 2006, in Afghanistan, currently assigned at the Special Operations Forces, Bucharest. He will compete at paralympic athletics and swimming and sitting volleyball at 2018 Sydney edition.
- **Major Dănuț Nicola**, injured in 2007, in Iraq, currently assigned to the 18th “Banat” Reconnaissance and Surveillance Brigade Headquarters, from Timișoara. He will compete at archery and sitting volleyball disciplines, at “Invictus Games Sydney 2018” edition.
- **Cpt. Ciprian Iriciuc**, wounded in 2015, in Afghanistan, is assigned to the 17th “Dragoș Vodă” Mountain Troop Battalion, Vatra Dornei. He will compete at indoor rowing and athletics and long jump.
- **First Sergeant (ret) Ionel Bida**, injured in 2010, in Afghanistan, will compete in paralympic swimming and sitting volleyball.



➤ Training session for “Invictus Games Sydney 2018”



➤ First Sergeant (ret) Ionel Bida



➤ Lt. Col. Laurențiu Șerban

- **First Sergeant Dumitru Paraschiva**, wounded in 2009 and assigned to “Constantin Brâncoveanu” Infantry and Mountain Troop Training Center, Făgăraș. This year, he will compete at indoor rowing and athletics, weight lifting and discus throw.
 - **First Sergeant Vasile Zbânca** was injured in 2010, in Afghanistan, is assigned to 405th ”NĂSĂUD” Logistic Support Battalion, Bistrița. He will compete in cycling, handbike and sitting volley.
 - **Master Sergeant Ionuț Butoi** was injured in 2008, in Afghanistan, is assigned to CRBN Defence Training Base, Câmpulung Muscel. At Sydney, he will compete at archery – compound, indoor rowing and paralympic swimming.
 - **Master Sergeant Doru Hamza** was wounded in 2008, in Afghanistan, is assigned to the 300th “Sf. Andrei” Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Galați and will compete at paralympic athletics and swimming and sitting volley.
 - **Master Sergeant Cătălin Pârvu** was injured in 2011, in Afghanistan and is currently assigned to Bucharest Garrison. He will compete at archery, cycling, paralympic swimming and sitting volley at the “Invictus Games Sydney 2018” event.
 - **Sergeant First Class Bogdan Dragomir**, injured in 2016, in Afghanistan, is assigned to 620th Special Operations Battalion, Buzău and will compete at paralympic athletics and sitting volley.
 - **Corporal Valentin Ciolan-Uță**, injured in 2015, in Afghanistan, is currently assigned to 49th CBRN Battalion, Pitești. He will compete at power-lifting, paralympic athletics – weight lifting and sitting volleyball.
 - **Corporal Eugen Pătru**, injured in 2014, in Afghanistan, is assigned to 84th Maintenance Center, Bucharest. He will compete at olympic archery, power-lifting and sitting volleyball.
- The previous training and participation in “Invictus Games Toronto 2017” successfully helped at the psychological and physical recovery of the members of Invictus Team Romania.
- The competitors in Invictus Games are very different from those participating in the Olympic or paralympic games. For the participants in Invictus Games, winning the medal is irrelevant. It's not the finish line which matters but the start one. The fact that you are at the start line of Invictus Games makes you a winner from the beginning, - you win comradeship, challenge and exploration of your own limits.
- This year, our soldiers are also determined to exceed their own limits at “Invictus Games Sidney 2018” and are confident in their ability to honorably represent the Romanian Armed Forces, as they did in the international missions they participated in, especially because on December 1st 2018, the Romanians worldwide celebrate the Great Union Centenary.
- Go, Invictus! Go, Romania!



Multinational Interoperability

Carol I National Defence University conducts the Advanced Joint Operations Staff Officer Course (AJOSOC) within the Crises Management and the Multinational Operations Regional Department

For twelve weeks, commissioned officers ranking from Major to Colonel ranks or their civilian equivalents train in order to accomplish missions within joint and multinational commands. The courses are conducted in English, with the following curriculum: NATO and EU security strategies and policies, military leadership, contemporary security environment, crises management in NATO and EU, joint force components, doctrine and planning of the joint operations and stabilization operations. Also, in the same period, the course attendees will take a documentation and research trip to the national and multinational commands emplaced on Romania’s territory and will participate in a joint-level exercise, where they will be examined.

The teaching staff set several goals to be accomplished by the attendees

at the end of the three-month course: mastering the military science and art principles and the basic concepts on national and Euro-Atlantic security, developing specific skills on the planning, organization, coordination, control and evaluation of the joint operations, in multinational context, improving the ability to elaborate operative scenarios, handling the land forces’ specific weaponry and using the main modeling and simulation concepts within the military operations as well as acquiring English language military terminology.

Most of the participants in this course (which takes place twice a year) hold the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from all three Services, the splash of colour being Lieutenant Colonel Mihai Lungu, Chief Inspector at the Gendarmerie County Inspectorate of Suceava. We met them during a media crises management exercise — organized with the support of the Information and Public Relations Directorate — when the spotlight cameras took them out of their zone of comfort. The managed “crises” were inspired from the military Public Relations experiences and, as they

admitted, these exercises are more than useful, due to the fact that the press appearances are not always planned and prepared.

The atmosphere during the classes was pretty relaxed owing to the experienced commissioned officers holding command positions or assigned to different headquarters. Some of them are commanders of the battalions we meet in the firing ranges or training areas and, even if they delegated their authority to their deputies during the three-month course, they, sometimes, had to handle both the study and the job. Lieutenant Colonel Cristian Cristescu, commander of 21st Mountain Troop Battalion “General Leonard Mociulschi” managed to participate in the important activities organized by Predeal Garrison, as well as those held on Heroes’ Day, without missing the classes.

All course attendees consider that the information lectured by the teaching staff is important and see this course both as a compulsory landmark in their career path and a training opportunity for a potential mission in one of the multinational headquarters.



➤ “Carol I” National Defence University

Celebrating 25 years of State Partnership Program (SPP) between Romanian Armed Forces and Alabama National Guard

Initiated in 1994, The State Partnership Program between the Alabama National Guard and the Romanian Armed Forces has been improved year by year. Since 2011, the activities developed within this program consisted in the support offered by the American partner in domains of main concern for the Romanian Armed Forces such as training of the Land and Air Forces soldiers.

It is worth mentioning that the European Reassuring Initiative/Europe Activity are currently running in Romania more than 135 different infrastructure projects listed in the Defense Cooperation Agreement, out of which Alabama National Guard supported many of them, particularly those connected with CINCU National Training Centre.

Another important contribution of ALNG in support of our forces was in rendering the F-16s operational. By participating in joint exercises, our pilots were familiarized with the capabilities of the F-16 aircraft and this contributed to the integration of this platform into our Air Forces.

On August 13th, during her visit in Romania, as part of this agreement, Major General Sheryl E. Gordon, The Adjutant General of Alabama National Guard, attended the conference „25 years of State Partnership Program”, at the National Defense University, in Bucharest, where she was awarded the Medal of Honor of the Romanian Defense Staff, for the involvement and valuable support of State Partnership Program.

During the conference, Major General Sheryl E. Gordon emphasised that „We, in the Alabama National Guard, feel extremely fortunate to have received Romania as our partner nation, and I am happy to say that over the last 25 years, we have made many visits, we have certainly developed long and abiding friendships, and we continue to share with other our best military colleagues practices to strengthen our special relationship as firm allies.”

On the official partnership, General Ciucă Ionel Nicolae, Chief of Romanian Defense stated that „The cooperation between the Romanian Armed Forces and the Alabama National Guard in the framework of SPP is excellent and we will do our best to continuously improve it. The same stands true for our cooperation with the US Armed Forces.

Future developments of this cooperation can be investigated in areas such as procurement of specific capabilities and development of the “societal resilience”, all these covering a large variety of domains including inter-agency/departmental communication and population training.”

The State Partnership Program provided a useful platform for military cooperation, especially at tactical level, between our structures and partner units.

Under the provisions of SPP, and benefiting from the great support provided by the Office of Defense Cooperation in Bucharest, units from both countries train together in numerous events and activities aimed at mutual development of their overall readiness level.

Within this context, the SPP between the Romanian Armed Forces and the Alabama National Guard (ALNG) brings together the experience and professionalism of both partners and helps increasing the level of training, interoperability and fighting capabilities in the transformation process, as well as building the adequate Romanian defence structures.

In this context, an entire range of joint live exercises (Red Dragon, Resolute Castle, Dacian Warhawk and Dacian Viper) for reconnaissance units, engineering troops and for Air Forces were conducted in Romania in order to increase the interoperability and the US presence in Eastern Europe.

At national level, Romania stepped up the process of consolidating its armed forces modernization and improved its force readiness, preparedness and interoperability levels.

Information and Public Relations Activities

The mission of the Information and Public Relations Directorate is to contribute to the promotion of the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) image by informing its own personnel and the legally established institutions and organizations with respect to the Romanian Armed Forces activity. The MoND, through the Information and Public Relations Directorate (IPRD), aims to offer the public opinion, the Romanian Armed Forces personnel, mass-media and the governmental and non-governmental organizations the possibility to analyze and understand the defence matters by means of correct and timely information. Also, the MoND, by means of IPRD, maintains relations with the representatives of the public relations structures of the defence ministries of the NATO and partners states by participating in debates on the development of cooperation among the public information military structures. Furthermore, the IPRD participates in activities meant to promote the military career.

In this context, a military delegation from the Defence Ministry of Montenegro – the newest member of the Alliance - headed by Deputy Minister for Human Resources, Mr. Mihailo Volkov, made a visit to Romania on public communication and military career promotion issues. During the visit, the delegation from Montenegro had meetings with the representatives of the MoND Human Resources Management Directorate, when the officials tackled topics such as military career promotion and the attraction of youth into the military, as well as legislative aspects that regulate the field of human resources. In the last part of their visit, the guests from Montenegro had a series of meetings with the IPRD and MoND Press Trust representatives, during which the officials discussed aspects related to ways of organizing and conducting the information and public relations activities, the organization of the military press structures, the types of products used in the public information and internal communication activities as well

as the organization of certain public information campaigns and special events designated to promote the military career.

Also, the Ministry of National Defence organizes each year, through the IPRD, the Course for Journalists Transmitting from Regions of Conflicts. The first edition of the Course was conducted in 2004, this year the IPRD organizing the 15th edition. The course lasts six days, is conducted in the MoND military units and is also an opportunity to promote the Romanian Armed Forces' image. 277 journalists graduated this course since its establishment.

Other activities conducted by IPRD with a view of promoting military career are "The Summer School of the Ministry of National Defence" and „The School Camp for Scouts". "The Summer School of the Ministry of National Defence" represents an opportunity to promote excellence in the military educational system, at the same time offering the participants the chance to exchange experience and improve their fundamental knowledge and leadership abilities.

"The School Camp for Scouts" promotes the Romanian Armed Forces' and NATO's values among the pupils – boys and girls – attending the secondary schools, from the 6th and 7th grades, and the high-schools, from the 9th to 11th grades.

➤ The meeting of the IPRD representatives with the delegation from Montenegro



The Romanian Armed Forces Participation in the Theaters of Operations



Since its establishment up to present, the Joint Forces Command has represented the main pillar of the Romanian Armed Forces which exerts the command and coordination of the structures and personnel participating in international missions, plans and conducts national/multinational operative-level exercises conducted domestically as well as operative/joint operations conducted both at national and multinational levels.

The Joint Forces Command is the structure responsible for the successful accomplishment of the missions Romania has committed to outside the national borders. Thus, the Command's role is to establish NATO's mission operational requirements, which are vital to the force generator that renders the structure operational, evaluates the pre-deployment preparation of these structures, permanently directs the activities conducted in the theaters

of operations and coordinates the necessary support activities.

The Joint Forces Command conducted and coordinated the main missions the Romanian Armed Forces participated in, such as Operation Enduring Freedom, ISAF III, Ancient Babylonia, the missions executed in the theater of operations from the Balkans as well as "Resolute Support" Mission, which has still been going on.

All these have contributed to the further development of the personnel who have been working in this command according to certain ethical and professional principles and values followed by the allied and partner armed forces we have cooperated with in the theaters of operations.

The main challenge this command had to face was the constant and timely adaptation of the structure to the continuous developments of the operational environment.

Thus, the professional skills of the personnel assigned to the Joint Forces Command reached a high level of operativity in the management and accomplishment of the tasks assigned.

The experience gained translates into the successful management of the operative tasks assigned to the Joint Forces Command, which enabled the achievement of interoperability with the allied and partner states' armed forces, fact which was mainly validated during "Resolute Support" Mission from Afghanistan.

Currently, the main efforts of the Romanian Armed Forces are focused on the theater of operations from Afghanistan. The Romanian structures are deployed in the "hottest" areas from the Center and Southern Afghanistan, in Kabul, Bagram and Kandahar. Thus, since the initiation of „Resolute Support" Mission, over 4000 soldiers have been deployed to this theater of operations.



The Joint Forces Command exerts the operational command over the staff structures and personnel. The staff structures consist in a force protection battalion deployed in Kandahar Air Base, an air force force protection detachment, air force counseling and maintenance teams, instructors detachment for special operation forces, a military police detachment, an Army Institutional Advisory Team (AIAT), HUMINT and CI teams, a HKIA airfield operating team, medical personnel assigned to ROLE 2/HKIA Hospital, a TAAC N instructors team, a TAAC S instructors team, staff personnel in RS commands and a National Support Element participating in NATO “Resolute Support” Mission, which make up almost 700 soldiers deployed in several locations. At the same time, after making the transfer of authority, the Joint Forces Command, coordinates the force replacement process, and provides for the safe

deployment and redeployment of the participating forces and their adjacent equipment, the gradual extraction of the troops rotated in the respective structure, hand-over/take-over of the tasks assigned to each contingent and the transfer of all knowledge and skills accumulated by the soldiers of the disengaged structure.

The Romanian military structures and the staff personnel are involved in: the training and counseling of the Afghan National Army, force protection

activities, military intelligence and military police activities, airfield operating activities, information/psychological and logistic support operations, thus, contributing to the increase of credibility, capabilities and sustainability of the Afghan National Army. The Romanian troops also support the Afghan Government in counteracting the terrorist activities and in ensuring the economic development and democratic evolution of this country.



The Romanian Armed Forces Response Capability to Cybernetic Security Incidents

The current geopolitical context and the emerging security challenges posed by the regional crises, ideological and inter-ethnic conflicts, the competition for resources or the micro-economic changes taking place at global level can easily turn into security threats, with an evolving cybernetic dimension. The actors involved, either of terrorist faction, from the organized crime sphere, or the state entities, became aware of the opportunities and advantages conferred by the latest technological developments and the increased popularity of the cybernetic space, these resulting into a migration of the aggressive actions towards the “cyber” area.

The traditional perceptions with regard to the security threats are obsolete, the cyber space providing new dimensions of their manifestation forms. The current threat is mainly asymmetric, transfrontalier, complex, personalized and adaptable, while the identification of the attackers becomes very difficult in this context.

At military level, the cyber space tends to become a new environment for the conduct of the military actions. This is noticed during the regional crises where, once with the increase of tensions, there is an intensification of the actions conducted in the cyber space. From national defence perspective, the most important vectors of the threat in the cybernetic field are the state entities.

In this context, the cyber defence military capabilities established at national level must be developed in order to ensure the action capability against the threats, while the residual risk should be maintained at an adequate level, similar to the classic threats’ one. We need to have operational capabilities able to manage the cybernetic security risks, in accordance with the security strategic concepts, and evaluations. Romania will have to develop its own action means and the necessary resources in formulating public policies which reflect both the national defence interests and objectives and the NATO and EU ones. The end state is to develop efficient means and mechanisms which will help us counter the transfrontalier cybernetic threats and aggressions.

Historical Background

In 2007, a three-level response capability to cybernetic incidents was created at the MoND level, similar to the NATO one:

- level 1 – coordination;
- level 2 – technical: which ensures the centralized management of the cybernetic events and incidents in MoND;
- level 3 – operational.

The capability’s main missions are:

- preventing the cybernetic attacks on the IT and Communication Systems;
- detection vulnerabilities and intrusions in the IT and Communication Systems;
- timely reaction to the IT security incidents;
- ensuring technical support to the system/network administrators for the implementation of the best security practice.

In the context of the evolution of the cybernetic threat, at military level, in 2013, the MoND adopted a conception on cybernetic defence on its responsibilities and missions in the national defence and security field, adapted to the new environments in which the military actions are conducted.

The conception implementation plan stipulated the establishment of certain cyber defence structures that can provide for the prevention and countering of the threats emerging from the cyber space, which will allow the exploitation of the opportunities offered by the cyber environment in order to contribute to gaining informational superiority both at peacetime and during armed conflicts, the state of siege, mobilization and wartime.

Also, the conception integrated lines of actions envisaged by Romania’s Cybernetic Security Strategy approved by Government Decision no.271/2013 and the in-progress measures listed in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Cybernetic Security National System, promote an open inter-institutional cooperation framework, by actively involving the MoND in ensuring cyber security at national level.

The conception sets out the following priority objectives and guidelines in the cyber defence field:

- develop, promote and implement the cyber defence doctrines, policies, guides and standards;
- identify and assess the cyber threats and counter the relevant cyber aggressions against the cyber security of the MoND communications and informational technology infrastructure;

- establish, render operational and develop the cyber defence capabilities by levels of competence, responsibilities, level of expertise and missions which will be sized according to the national interest and the MoND policy in the field of protection of IT , communication structures and cyber space;
- develop and train specialists in the field;
- develop cooperation at national and international levels.

The implementation of the new cybernetic defence concept in the context of a dynamic IT infrastructure, which has constantly undergone changes, is a long-lasting process, having to adapt to the challenges posed by the cyber space. This initiative must be supported by planning and ensuring the human, material and financial resources in order to meet the military operational requirements, identifying and developing the mechanisms necessary to prevent and counter the cyber attacks against the IT infrastructure of strategic interest.

Cybernetic Attacks

The intensification of actions in the cybernetic field and their increased aggressivity requested an adequate response reaction characterized by continuity and efficiency. From this reason, the cyber defence became a major component of the MoND activity. The MoND created the necessary legal framework for the development of such capability that must be able to identify and counter cyber aggressions. If, in a first stage, the goal of cyber attacks over the IT networks was the intelligence gathering, later the goals increased and aimed at producing malfunctions and destroying hardware elements.

Over 2012-2015, cyber-warfare techniques (mainly intelligence collection activities) were conducted with the intention to penetrate the MoND IT systems.

We appreciate that these attacks were planned by structures specialized in conducting information operations within computer networks, which detain own attack instruments, starting with the simplest trojans, viruses and worms and culminating with the *Advanced Persistent Threats (APT)*, which use *complex exploitation techniques* and *massive botnet networks*.

For example, on April 2015, during a cybernetic attack named *SOFACY*, several official *e-mail* addresses from MoND were the target of certain *cyber*-type attacks. The attacks were possible because the initiators had a list with the official *e-mail* addresses of the MoND personnel, which was obtained by accessing several open sources. Following the protection measures implemented within the internet-connected networks and because of their employment only for public information purposes, the risks associated with such attacks cannot cause prejudices or affect the MoND missions at large scale.

Cooperation in the Cybernetic Defence Field

The MoND conducted the following activities in the field of national and international cooperation:

- Signed a memorandum of understanding with NATO, in the military field (MOU POC NATO);

- Participated in the project team reunions in the Cyber Defence field, organized by the European Defence Agency (PTCD EDA)
- Took part in the activities organized as part of “Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cyber Security” Project (PESCO);
- Conducted cooperation activities, at national level, as part of SNSC, according to Government Decision no.271/2013.

Development of Operational Capabilities

The cybernetic defence forces were established in order to share the cyber defence burden within own cybernetic infrastructure and to ensure an increased degree of flexibility when countering aggressions. These forces are made up of: the Cybernetic Defence Command, formations, units and other structures, established according to law.

The Cybernetic Defence Command’s main goal will be to prevent, detect, analyze and respond to the MoND cyber security incidents as well as to manage the associated risks. The Cybernetic Defense Command was established on October 1 2018, as a part of Romanian Armed Forces.

The Cybernetic Defense Command is a command structure subordinated to the Chief of Defense, which plans and conducts the cyber-space missions, ensuring at the same time, through specific capabilities, protection and high resilience to network infrastructure, information technology systems and weapon systems used in the entire spectrum of operations, in domestic or allied environment.

The structure of the Cyber Defense Command is the result of a complex analysis. It derives entirely from the analysis of the missions and tasks of the cyber defense structures and information technology.

The Cyber Defense Command has two subordinate agencies, namely the Cyber Defense Agency and the Information Technology Agency.

When designing the Cyber Defense Command and its subordinate agencies, the following principles were taken into consideration:

- transforming the cyber space into an operational field, according to the decisions made in 2016.
- the implementation of military and civilian standards applied by other nations: the IT Infrastructure Library, functional analysis of the Cyberspace operations, the Federated Mission Networking / FMN, the Projects in a Controlled Environment / PRINCE2, the Open Group Architecture Framework / TOGAF, the NCIA organization model and NATO Cyberspace Operations Center (CyOC) organization model;
- the implementation of the cloud model, which is essential both for the improvement of the quality of services provided to users and for the protection of cyber infrastructures;

Finally, the Cyber Defense Command activity will be based on organizational processes and not on persons.

NATO HUMINT Centre of Excellence – a Change of Generations



In today's dynamic and uncertain security environment, NATO Centres of Excellence enterprise is essential to the Alliance's transformation efforts, contributing with complementary capacity and expertise to enhance future interoperability, build resilience, and provide enduring solutions to the complex problems NATO faces today and will continue to face throughout the 21st Century.

As part of this enterprise, the HUMINT Centre of Excellence (HCOE) in Oradea understood, from the very beginning, its important position in NATO Intelligence. It all started nine years ago, when Romania together with Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, and Turkey signed the Memorandum of Understanding to establish the HCOE. Soon after, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and USA joined the team and consolidated the organization.

After its accreditation in 2010, HCOE developed into a critical multinational hub of HUMINT expertise. It assumed the chairmanship of both NATO HUMINT Working Group and NATO HUMINT Technology Working Group - two important forums that shape the future of HUMINT in NATO, and received the custody for developing all HUMINT related standards for the Alliance.

The education and training programme provided by the HCOE was unanimously appreciated and the accreditation of the HCOE for NATO Education and Training Quality Assurance was to seal the high quality standards implemented in the resident courses. Moreover, in 2015, the HCOE was granted the Department Head function for HUMINT individual education and training in NATO.

All these achievements would not have been possible without the courage, dedication, and professionalism of the HCOE personnel. But time passes, and some of the original nucleus of personnel moved on to new career opportunities, becoming ambassadors of the HCOE. They will gradually be replaced by a new generation, eager to prove a great commitment to the job and to the team. Last year, BGEN Eduard SIMION transitioned to the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Representative in Europe and handed over the command to COL Florin TOMIUC. The newly appointed HCOE Director vowed to continue the great work of his predecessor by increasing the HCOE role in NATO, exploring new opportunities, and ensuring that the HCOE flag is recognized as the symbol of HUMINT excellence for the Alliance.



Campaign on Defence and Security

The WeAreNATO campaign highlights how unity and solidarity between Allies contributes to protecting peace and security for citizens across the Alliance. The communications campaign will depict the central role and importance of NATO in maintaining Euro-Atlantic security and the ways in which the Alliance uses diplomacy, military strength and technological advancements to secure peace. By this campaign, Romania aims at improving the perception and trust of the young audience (aged 16-24) in NATO structures' capacity of protecting its population and the allied territory and will mainly focus on facilitating the youth access to information about NATO by means of different manifestations especially dedicated to them, supported by a virtual component. Also, the MoND will organize meetings of the pupils and students with the allied soldiers deployed in mission to Romania in order to better exemplify the significance of North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the way the Allies act together within the NATO-led operations and missions.

Legal Basis of the Campaign:

- Romania's Agreement on conducting NATO's public information campaign in Romania *WeAreNATO*
- Law no.167 of July 14th, 2017 on the collaboration of the MoND with other ministries and international organizations Romania is part of
- MoND Communication Strategy throughout 2017-2020
- Protocol among the Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education on running the *WeAreNATO* campaign

The first step in planning the *WeAreNATO* campaign in Romania was the signing of an inter-institutional project by the ministries involved in the project which provides

the legal basis for the organization of the campaign manifestations. At the MoND level, the defence minister approved a campaign planning matrix.

The conferences held in the university centers for the 18-24 year old target audiences are organized with the approval of the rectors. The Information and Public Relations Directorate, with the support of the Department for Armaments, introduced a *WeAreNATO* sequence, as part of the **PatriotFest** innovation competition, run in civilian universities by the MoND, in partnership with other defence institutions.

For the youth aged 16-18 years, the campaign integrates *WeAreNATO* sequences within the projects run by MoND in the civilian high-schools, such as: "The Armed Forces-A different School" and "The Romanian Armed Forces' Day in Schools". Also, the campaign introduced *WeAreNATO* sequences within military profession promotion caravans run throughout the country by all three Services.

The campaign conveys mostly general information about NATO, its role, its values, all centered on the core message: *All for one and one for all*

Information and Public Relations Directorate (IPRD) fully uses the potential and opportunities offered by the Services academies and the Military Technical Academy in the civil university centers with a view of identifying certain projects which can involve civilian students of the partner universities to organize *WeAreNATO* conferences. Thus, such *WeAreNATO* conferences were held at the Military Technical Academy and "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy, another one being scheduled to take place at the "Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces' Academy from Braşov.

WE ARE PARTNERS
WE ARE TRANSPARENT

WE ARE ALLIES WE ARE SAFE

The Information and Public Relations Directorate aims at adding certain *WeAreNATO* sequences in other projects run by MoND structures in the high-schools and university centers, in order to integrate public information elements with respect to NATO specificity.

On the occasion of NATO Day celebration, on April 1st 2018, the IPRD suggested displaying presentations on NATO's role within the current regional security context during the manifestations organized in the military units or in the public space, with the attendance of the target audience. Also, the IPRD supports NATO activities (exercises, operations, ceremonies and official visits) by using certain visual identity elements and sending certain message elements. At the same time, IPRD has a constant dialogue with the Romanian Non-Governmental Organizations interested in running certain *WeAreNATO* projects, supporting these organizations by sending its speakers to conferences, by the overall usage of the visual identity elements of the campaign and by promoting the events both on its official social media channels and in the military press.

At the same time, IPRD is in permanent relation with the General Human Resource Management Directorate (GHRMD) and with the Personnel and Mobilization Directorate of the Defence Staff in order to make the most of the opportunities offered by the promotion of the military profession in the civilian high-schools and university centres (by inviting the GHRMD or the regional Information and Recruitment Centres representatives to attend the conferences) as well as to promote certain permanent or temporary NATO positions.

The interest of the target audiences in the projects conducted so far as well as in other events organized throughout 2018 creates the preconditions for considering the *WeAreNATO* campaign a successful one due to the positive feedback received by the campaign coordinators from the NATO HQ.

Phase Two of the campaign will begin in 2019 and will be conducted through specialized meetings, round-tables and debates on specific topics such as military history, political science, communications, military medicine, science and technology. It will be dedicated to groups of students interested in a particular topic in NATO.

➤ *WE ARE NATO* Conference at
"Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces' Academy





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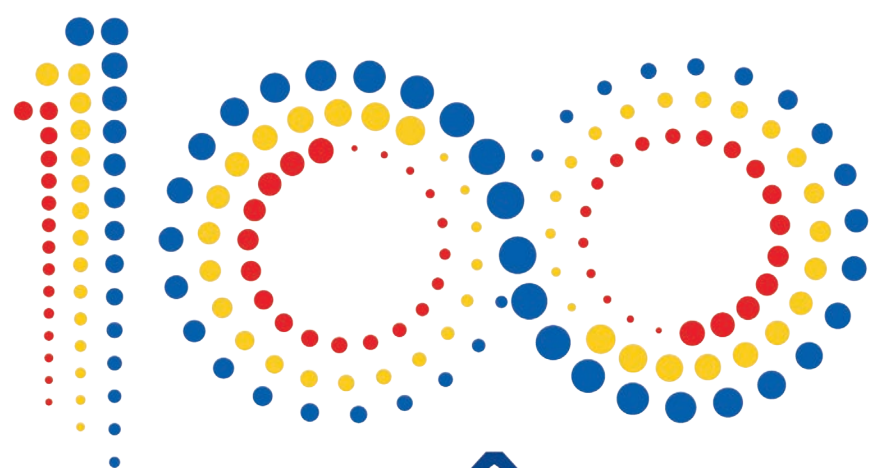
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