

# ROMANIAN DEFENCE 2023

## INSIDE

Major Procurement Programs –  
Top Priority of the Romanian  
MoND

The participation of the Romanian  
armed forces in missions and  
operations abroad has been  
reconfigured



#WEARENATO

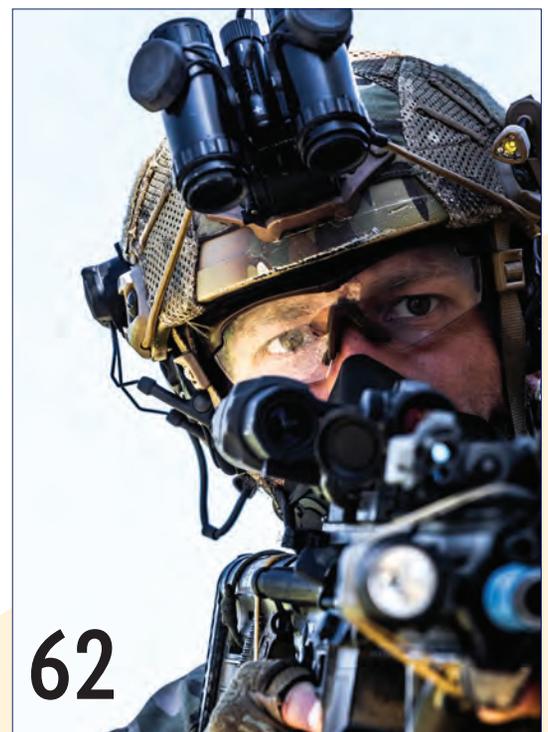
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# We accelerated the consolidation of own defence capabilities in the BLACK SEA REGION

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**T**he national defence institution, exclusively loyal to the people's will, is fully committed to its sacred mission of guaranteeing and defending the values of Romania. The primary objective of the Romanian Armed Forces is to strengthen national security and defence, alongside other institutions from the defence, public order and national security system.

The development of relevant capabilities paramount to accomplish missions, increase readiness and have a comprehensive defensive configuration of the *Forward Presence* on the Eastern flank have been an enduring part of the national strategic thinking. The analysis of risks and threats offered the necessary data to develop strategic documents with a high level of applicability and flexibility, which provide the doctrinal support for the modernization of the force structure. Consequently, based on the *Romanian Military Strategy*, the *Strategic Analysis of Defence* and other operative documents correlated with the NATO and EU doctrines, as well as on the experience gained during the pandemic, the Romanian Armed Forces' activities focus on the main lines of effort: continue providing security guarantees within the Alliance, the European Union, and the Strategic Partnership with the US; run procurement and modernization programs of the force structure, including projects meant to consolidate military units and increase readiness of the forces; continuous adaptation of the Table of Organization and Equipment during peacetime and at war; modernize the military education system; increase the force structure, including by enlisting volunteer reservists; digitalization and usage of new technologies. Moreover, our top priorities include: participation, alongside our allies, in exercises, missions and operations meant to contribute to international stability; participation in security missions and operations carried out as part of the European Union's commitments (*Common Security and Defence Policy-CSDP*), including the constant contribution of the defence institution to the EU military capabilities development projects (*Permanent Structured Cooperation-PESCO*).

The significant degradation of the regional security environment, after the illegal annexation of Crimea Peninsula made by Russian Federation in 2014, has determined the acceleration of the Romanian Armed Forces' operational



General  
Daniel PETRESCU  
Chief of Defence Staff



The EUMC and NATO MC Meetings, Brussels, May 2022

consolidation process. Starting 2017, when the armed forces benefited from a new budgeting approach, the Defence Staff's commitment to strengthening its defensive capacity was busted by the opportunity of requesting equipment that would meet its operational requirements. Twenty more procurement programs will be initiated this year, which will add to the thirty on-going procurement ones, in different stages of implementation. This will have a major impact in achieving target capabilities and enhancing the armed forces' striking and maneuver capabilities.

NATO's reaction to the brutal, unprovoked and unjust war led by the Russian Federation against the neighboring country, Ukraine, was firm, swift and united, which

materialized into a defensive reconfiguration on the Eastern flank, and, consequently, strengthened the allied deterrence and defence posture. *NATO Strategic Concept*, adopted at the 2022 Madrid Summit, put the Black Sea region into a new light of strategic interest. The planning document represents the doctrinal bedrock for the implementation, at previously-unseen level, of deterrence measures and actions, and, if necessary, of collective defence measures against any threats posed to our common security.

At national level, we accelerated the consolidation of own defence capabilities and enhanced the Allied defensive shield's capacity in the Black Sea region, through coordinated deployment of allied troops

and capabilities on our territory. Moreover, the defence plans have been updated and harmonized with the Allied ones, and coordinated at inter-agency level. The Allied crisis response measures have been coordinated, resulting not only in an increased early warning capacity in all operational environments, but also in an intensified data and intel exchange. Measures for reducing forces' reaction time and intervention have been applied and the joint training with deployed forces has been achieved. Also, the actions meant to ensure and strengthen the Enhanced Vigilance Activities and Air Policing Missions have been intensified. Additional measures have been taken for the reconnaissance and discovery missions conducted in order to neutralize maritime mines, and to ensure freedom of navigation and safety of maritime communication lines in the Romanian interest areas at the Black Sea. At the same time, Romanian Armed Forces supported the public authorities in managing the Ukrainian refugee flow and other support activities provided to Ukraine.

All these examples represent only a part of the armed forces' current activity, of the complexity of the 24/24 tasks performed by the defence institution personnel, whose only option is to successfully fulfill all their duties. As always, I'm fully confident of the professionalism, commitment and responsibility of the colleagues who work in the Romanian Armed Forces, and, especially, in their ability of accomplishing all missions assigned.



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Certification ceremony of the British Royal Air Forces Detachment

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Certification ceremony of the Italian and Spanish Air Forces' Detachments deployed to Romania, at 86<sup>th</sup> Air Base "Locotenent Aviator Gheorghe Mociornița"





CHC ADMIRAL Rob BAUER  
CHC OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

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# A view on the decisions taken by NATO in 2022

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**W**e live in unpredictable times in which the foundations of the international order system that have guaranteed the peace, security and our well-being for decades, are being put to the test.

The decisions taken by Allied ministers on these occasions in the field of deterrence and defence are proofs that NATO adaptation goes in the right direction.

The unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine, with its tremendous dose of violence and destruction represents a defining moment in the international order, changing our perception of security and defence and making them more challenging. This brutal war led by Russia against an independent state has had a severe impact on the parameters of the Euro-Atlantic security, which have dramatically changed.

In the light of this new stark reality, NATO adopted key decisions in order to adapt its military posture to cope with the threat posed by the belligerent Russia. Year 2022 can be defined by three important milestones in terms of the decisions taken by the Alliance in adapting its military presence and posture.

## ALLIED DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE POSTURE

As the clouds of war were gathering around Ukraine, in February, NATO took unprecedented decisions to enhance security and reassure the Eastern Allies: it activated its defence plans to shield and reassure the Eastern Allies; deployed thousands more troops to the Eastern flank and placed more on standby; placed 100 jets at high alert; sent more than 120 Allied ships at sea, from the High North to the Mediterranean.

A month after Russia invaded independent Ukraine, on 24<sup>th</sup> of March, NATO leaders gathered in Brussels for an extraordinary Summit, where they decided: to deploy four new battalion-size Battle Groups/BGs in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, in addition to the four already present since 2016 in the Baltic states and Poland, ensuring a stronger and coherent defence from the Baltic Sea to the

Black Sea; to further adapt its collective posture by deploying a stronger NATO presence on the Eastern flank, on a persistent rotational basis.

NATO leaders reunited for a historic Summit at the end of June in Madrid, where they adopted the NATO Strategic Concept that sets and guides the Alliance profile and posture for the next decade and more, as well as NATO's fundamental tasks (deterrence and defence; crisis prevention and management; cooperative security). They also decided on the most significant aspects that will further strengthen the Alliance deterrence and defence posture: enhance our Forward Defence by augmenting the battalion-sized BGs up to brigade level; create a new force model, which will strengthen the NATO Force Structure and increase the number of high readiness forces to over 300,000 troops; this modernised new Force will support NATO's three core tasks and resource the Alliance's new generation of military plans.

The new emphasis on pre-assigned forces to defend specific Allies came with a plan for developing the adequate infrastructure, more pre-positioned equipment and stockpiles of military supplies, ammunitions and fuel that will sustain our engaged forces and boost our ability to reinforce. In addition, more forward-deployed capabilities, like air-defence weapons, will be placed closer to the would-be front lines with Russia and the command and control arrangements will be strengthened.

All these decisions created the framework to evolve from the Forward Presence to the more credible, agile and sustainable concept of Forward Defence.

Romania is one of the beneficiaries of these essential decisions, which translated into an increased Allied military build-up/presence in our country at an unprecedented level. We have received wave after wave of Allied troops deployed under NATO flag or part of bilateral arrangements since February. Here are just a few examples:

Following the decisions of the NATO summit in February 2022, the spearhead of the NATO Response Force, the so-called Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) under French command, was deployed on our soil, for the first time, from February to May this year, for deterrence and reassurance purposes. Following the decisions of

the extraordinary NATO Summit in March, this task is being completed by the allied Battle Group unfold and deployed in Romania under French command since May 2022. Currently, almost 5,300 Allied troops from US, France, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands and Canada are deployed to Romania, on a rotational basis, under NATO flag or as part of bilateral arrangements. These forces are taking part in training exercises or other baseline activities alongside home national forces.

Military jet fighters, from US, Italy, Germany, Great Britain and currently Canada, are helping our air force in policing the skies over Romania and reinforcing NATO collective defence. Maritime Patrol Aircraft/MPA flights are regularly taking place over the Black Sea. As an example, the US B-52 Stratofortress Bombers have already flown twice over Romania (*in March under US flag and in August under NATO banner*) as deterrent for any aggressive intension against NATO Allies, especially the ones in the very vicinity of the conflict.

While deployed here, the Allied troops, together with home defence forces, are integrated into a regionally focused, intensive training programme and exercise activities across the Eastern Flank. This way, they will become familiar with local terrain facilities and our new prepositioned stocks so that they can respond swiftly to any emergency. The practical cooperation between the Allied troops is concretely translated into an increased readiness and interoperability at the operational level and creates the framework for future cooperation.

The public perception regarding all these Allied deployments to our country is extremely favourable as their presence has a reassuring effect, sending a strong message that NATO is capable to defend our territory.

France's decision to scale up the Collective Defence Battle Group (CDBG) in Romania to brigade level, alongside the additional brigade pledged by the US that will be headquartered on a rotational basis in Romania, will make the Black Sea region a more stable and secure region.

All these contributions, we are grateful for, are a statement of both European and Euro-Atlantic defence solidarity in the face of a brutal aggression.

As the war in Ukraine continues to unfold, with no end in sight, Romania is working diligently,



Bucharest, the Capital city of the European Military Navies. 25 Chiefs of Naval Forces Staffs of the EU and NATO member countries met in search of new ways of enhancing cooperation in the context of the current security challenges posed to the maritime space

together with our French, Belgian and Dutch Allies and partners, to develop the critical infrastructure at Cincu Joint National Training Centre and achieve the full operational capability of the CDBG. The allied contribution in ensuring the effectiveness and credibility of the collective deterrence posture on the Eastern flank is fundamental in deterring Russia and promoting collective security in the Black Sea region.

Vladimir Putin's unjustifiable war against Ukraine proved, without any doubt, that Russia represents the most direct and persistent threat to the Euro-Atlantic and regional security on the long run. That is why we consider this force posture's footprint should remain in place and be part of "a new normal".

Seven decades after its creation in 1949, the North Atlantic Alliance remains a necessary, cohesive and credible defence and security actor. The formulation of its various Strategic Concepts at critical moments in history shows its ability to constantly adapt to profound changes in its security environment.

## NATO STRATEGIC CONCEPT

Faced with the greatest security crisis over the last decades, Allies recognized Russia for what it is and reflected it as such in the Strategic Concept agreed in Madrid this summer. This important strategic document represents the blueprint for the

Alliance's future adaptation to a more competitive world where authoritarian powers try to push back against the ruled-based international order. It also provides a coherent basis for military planning and capability development.

From our perspective, Romanian objectives are well represented within this document, by the: pragmatic approach on Russia; the reaffirmation of the collective defence as the core and main purpose of the Alliance; strong commitment for defending every inch of the allied territory; guidance on the adaptation of the collective deterrence and defence posture; recognition of the Black Sea region as an area of strategic importance for the Euro-Atlantic security; importance of the increased relationship and support to the Eastern like-minded partners, particularly Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

More than six months later, the war in Ukraine has turned into a war of attrition, with Russian forces failing in capturing much of the country, being constantly pushed back to the East and South by the determined Ukrainian soldiers.

What we have witnessed over the last seven months in Ukraine has taught us once more that wars are unpredictable. No one can foresee exactly how long this one will last. That is why Allies are committed to stay prepared, stay on course and provide support to Ukraine for as long as it takes.

# A LEAP FORWARD

## in developing a stronger and more capable EU security and defence

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**O**ver the last years, there was a significant progress in the field of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy. The Union has proved it is a capable actor and a credible partner that can do more to protect its interests and values.

But February 24<sup>th</sup> came as a strategic shock for the EU Member States. The brutal Russian invasion in Ukraine was described as an inflexion point in history.

EU took important decisions to support Ukraine, including in the security and defence field, proving it is an important security actor. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the Council adopted two assistance measures under the European Peace Facility, which consisted in 500 million euros, that contributed to the strengthening of the capabilities and resilience of the Ukrainian armed forces and to the defence of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Since then, the EU contribution under the European Peace Facility for Ukraine amounted to 2.5 billion euros funding the provision of defensive equipment and supplies to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Faced with a war on the European continent, the EU and its Member States also committed to take more responsibility for EU's own security and to pursue a strategic course of action in defence, as stated by the EU head of states and government in the Versailles declaration, adopted on 10 and 11 of March. Ten days later, the EU Council formally approved the Strategic Compass, the first document of this kind, representing an ambitious plan of action for strengthening the EU security and defence policy by 2030.

### A STRATEGIC COMPASS FOR EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE

One month after the brutal Russian invasion in Ukraine, the EU approved the Strategic Compass. It was the result of two years of strategic dialogue among member states on EU's role on the global stage. Obviously, the Russian aggression heightened the geopolitical awareness within Member States, as well as the need to invest more in defence and speed up the implementation phase of the Strategic Compass. The final document reflects the Russian invasion of Ukraine and provides a shared assessment of the challenges and threats the EU is facing. Thus, the strategic document represents an ambitious, yet realistic, roadmap for the EU to become a stronger security and defence actor, addressing the full range of threats the EU faces.

With the Strategic Compass, the Member States agree on a common strategic vision for EU's role in security and defence and commit to a set of concrete proposals to achieve these goals in the next 5-10 years, setting out a clear roadmap for their implementation along specific timelines.

Member States agreed to increase their capacity to act as a whole, in order to better respond to external conflicts and crisis and to support their partners' capacity building, as well as to strengthen the resilience and protection of the Union and its citizens, by boosting the instruments and actions already in place, as well as by developing new frameworks where needed. The Strategic Compass proposes several concrete actions in four domains

(ACT, SECURE, INVEST and PARTNER). The most important elements are:

Developing an **EU Rapid Deployment Capacity (EU RDC)**, consisting of substantially modified EU Battlegroups (EUBGs) and of pre-identified Member States' military forces and capabilities, including strategic enablers. The objective is to have a modular force of up to 5,000 personnel that can be tailored and swiftly deployed for different types of crises.

In taking up more responsibility in the field of security and defence, the EU must be able to act quickly, robustly and effectively. This is what the new EU RDC seeks to achieve:

- ✓ **Organising regular live exercises**, on land and at sea, to increase the interoperability and readiness of our armed forces;
- ✓ **Reinforce the civilian and military CSDP missions and operations** by providing them with more robust and flexible mandates, promoting a rapid and more flexible decision-making process and ensuring a greater financial solidarity, while also promoting close cooperation with European-led ad hoc missions and operations. As a first step, Member States will work towards increasing the effectiveness of the CSDP missions on the ground;
- ✓ **Strengthen the command and control structures, in particular the Military Planning and Conduct Capability;**
- ✓ **Substantially enhancing military mobility within and beyond the Union;**
- ✓ Creating an **EU Hybrid Toolbox** that brings together different instruments to detect, prepare for, and respond in a coordinated manner to a broad range of hybrid threats, while also developing a dedicated toolbox to address and counter **foreign information manipulation and interference;**
- ✓ Further developing the **EU's Cyber Defence Policy** to be better prepared for and protect against cyberattacks;
- ✓ Developing an **EU Space Strategy for security and defence;**
- ✓ Developing and investing in **next generation capabilities**, as well as in the necessary **strategic enablers**, in particular also through collaborative capability development and joint procurement;
- ✓ Committing to invest more and better as Europeans, investing in **technological**

**innovation for defence** and creating a new **Defence Innovation Hub** within the European Defence Agency;

- ✓ **Reinforcing strategic partnerships**, in particular with NATO and the UN;
- ✓ Boosting cooperation with **bilateral partners**, in particular the United States, Norway and Canada, UK and Japan;
- ✓ **Developing tailored partnerships** in the Western Balkans, in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhood, as well as in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ROMANIA?

The Strategic Compass is an ambitious, yet realistic document. It envisages an enhanced role for the EU in security and defence, while emphasizing that NATO remains the central pillar of European security and the importance of transatlantic partnership. A stronger EU will contribute positively to European security and, thus, to our security. It is very important for us that the consolidation of the Common Security and Defence Policy is done complementary to the NATO one. It is essential to avoid duplications, foster synergies and ensure coordination in addressing common challenges. EU and NATO can both contribute when it comes to strengthening partners, stabilizing neighbouring countries and developing defence capabilities. This perspective is clearly reflected in the Strategic Compass and in the action taken towards its implementation.

Romania committed to play a role in enhancing the transatlantic partnership and the coherence of NATO-EU action.

The Strategic Compass also takes note of the security challenges in the Black Sea region and in the Eastern Neighbourhood, Member States committing to cooperate with Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia in helping these countries to strengthen their resilience. That is particularly important for us. The strategic importance of the Black Sea region in something that Romania always emphasized and the current strategic environment made it very clear for everyone that more should be done.

We are looking at a paradigm shift in European defence. The Strategic Compass is pointing towards a stronger European defence, that can only be beneficial for our national security and for NATO.



# ROMANIA'S ROLE IN FOSTERING EU DEFENCE capability development and investments

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**O**ver the last couple of years, the activities of the European Union in the area of security and defence have evolved considerably, demonstrating that there is a huge potential to build a more effective, capable and joined-up Union that can do more for the protection of its citizens.

The situation in Ukraine has revealed the need for the EU to reflect on its ability to build and rely on a strong and innovative defence industrial and technological base, as an integrative part of Europe's increased preparedness to address current and future security threats.

## VERSAILLES DECLARATION

During their informal meeting at Versailles on 11 March 2022, the EU Heads of State and Government committed to “bolster European defence capabilities” in light of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, also expressing the need to take more responsibility for the EU's security and make further decisive steps towards building “European sovereignty”.

As a concrete result, they agreed to: increase defence expenditures; step

up cooperation through joint projects; close shortfalls and meet capability objectives; boost innovation including through civil/military synergies; and strengthen and develop EU defence industry, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). They invited the European Commission, in coordination with the European Defence Agency (EDA), to put forward an *Analysis of the defence investment gaps* and to propose any further measures necessary to strengthen the European defence industrial and technological base (EDTIB). This specific task was highlighted in the *Strategic Compass on Security and Defence* adopted by the Council and endorsed by the European Council in March 2022.

## STRAGIC COMPASS ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The Strategic Compass identifies EU's overall ambition to further develop “full spectrum forces that are agile and mobile, interoperable, technologically advanced, energy efficient and resilient”. It also recalls the need to fill in the already identified critical capability shortfalls indispensable to enable

the Union to undertake the full range of *Common Security and Defence Policy* (CSDP) tasks set out in the Treaty, specifically the higher spectrum of intensity ones.

As regards defence capabilities, the *Strategic Compass* and *Versailles Declaration* provide the EU Member States with a clear political guidance for the planning of future defence investments to implement the EU Level of Ambition, making full use of the different processes and initiatives launched over the last years.

## EU'S ACTIONS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATIVE APPROACH IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE

Considering the key findings on investment gaps and internal fragmentation which undermine the EU EDTIB development and competitiveness, the European Commission and the High Representative set out a set of concrete measures designed to strengthen the European defence demand through joint procurement and to reinforce supply through measures targeting the support to industrial manufacturing capacities.

Thus, on 19 July 2022, the Commission adopted a proposal for a *Regulation on establishing the European defence industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act* (EDIRPA) which seeks to act as a short-term financial instrument worth €500 million to incentivize common defence procurement among EU Member States from 2022 to 2024, by supporting actions of consortia composed of at least three Member States.

The short-term instrument will pave the way for an EU framework for defence joint procurement. By 2023, the Commission will propose a European Defence Investment Programme (EDIP) regulation, which will establish the conditions for Member States to form *European Defence Capability Consortia* (EDCC). Within the EDCC, Member States will jointly procure, for the use of participating Member States, defence capabilities that are developed in a collaborative way within the EU and will benefit from a VAT exemption.

In order to coordinate these collaborative efforts, a *Defence Joint Procurement Task Force* was set up in July 2022 by the Commission and the High

Representative to work with Member States and support the coordination and de-conflict their very short-term procurement needs to face the new security situation. The Task Force would also establish an estimate of needs and the EU industrial manufacturing capacities necessary to answer the needs.

## FOSTERING INNOVATION IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR AT EU LEVEL

With the rapid development of new and often disruptive technologies and their fast weaponization, innovation emerged as a geostrategic factor shaping the international security environment. Against this backdrop, in May 2022, EU Defence Ministers approved the establishment of a *Hub for EU Defence Innovation* (HEDI) within the European Defence Agency.

HEDI serves as a platform to stimulate and facilitate cooperation on defence innovation among Member States while ensuring synergies with related European Commission activities, notably the EU defence innovation scheme, and coherence of output with NATO similar initiatives such as the *Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic* (DIANA) and *NATO Innovation Fund*.

The Hub sets up and manages networks of defence innovation organisations and researchers, who are to exchange views on these topics once or twice a year. These exchanges will further support the professionalization of defence innovation and scale up innovation activities across Europe. Moreover, HEDI's activities will contribute to and focus on the agreed EU priorities for capability development (*Capability Development Plan*), defence research (*Overarching Strategic Research Agenda*), as well as skills, technologies and manufacturing capabilities (*Key Strategic Activities*).

## ROMANIA'S EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE EU DEFENCE INITIATIVES

In the current deteriorated security context, refocusing attention on defence investments is of the essence. In order to be able to keep up the pace with the recent security evolutions, Romania set a

strategic objective to increase the defence spending from 2% to 2.5% of GDP starting with 2023, being fully committed to substantially invest in defence capabilities that would bring the EU defence landscape to the next level on short and medium term.

Romania has underlined the importance of spending more and better, along with addressing together the existing gaps through collaborative defence investments, including for research and development, in order to improve common resilience. In this regard, national defence planning documents (*National Defence Strategy*, *White Paper on Defence and Defence Planning Guidance*) include the requirement for a constant increase of R&D expenditures with the aim of reaching the recommended spending level of 2%, this goal being accomplished for the first time in 2022.

Romania has constantly supported the efforts to increase EU's profile in the field of security and defence. In this regard, significant progress was made in implementing the EU defence initiatives: *Permanent Structured Cooperation* (PESCO), *European Defence Fund* (EDF), *Coordinated Annual Review of Defence* (CARD) or *Military Mobility*, which are good indicators of the political will to advance European defence.

Over the last years, Romania performed complex actions aimed at promoting a collaborative culture at national level in order to take full benefit from EU collaborative programmes and projects and make the best use of CARD recommendations.

Romania's contribution to PESCO was highly appreciated in the assessments of National Implementation Plans (NIP), as well as Romania's commitment to make real progress for the joint development of defence capabilities at EU level. In terms of numbers, as of 2022, out of the 60 PESCO projects that are currently being run, Romania is involved in 21 projects either as member or observer and coordinates two of them: *CBRN Defence Training Range* (CBRND TR) and *European Union Network of Diving Centres* (EUNDC).

The *European Defence Fund* is the most impacting EU defence initiative, considered a

game changer in taking forward the collaborative defence research and capability development at European level. Over the last years, the Ministry of National Defence organized periodic meetings with representatives of the national defence industry, research institutes and universities in order to promote the benefits of participating in collaborative projects, in particular within PESCO and EDF.

*Military Mobility* has become a central element of concern at Euro-Atlantic level, being reflected in both strategic documents: *NATO Strategic Concept* and *EU Strategic Compass*. Romania is involved in the implementation of *Rail-2-Sea* project within the *Three Seas Initiatives* as well as in the *Via Carpathia* project of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

At EU level, the access to funding is done in accordance with each EU programme rules. For example, *Connecting Europe Facility* (CEF – *military mobility part*) and *European Defence Fund* (EDF) are implemented through competitive calls for proposals. For example, during the first call of military mobility projects launched by the European Commission at the beginning of this year, Romania received over 14 mil EUR funding for a package of 5 objectives (modernization of bridges) through *Connecting Europe Facility Instrument* (CEF).

Starting with 12 May 2022, the European Commission has launched the second call for proposals for military mobility projects financed through CEF. In this respect, the experts from the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure agreed upon a list of military mobility projects and two of them have already been submitted in response to this second call.

While NATO remains the cornerstone of collective defence, the implementation of EU defence initiatives and processes providing added value to the national and Euro-Atlantic security. Romania remains committed to continuing the efforts of developing and maintaining robust, resilient and credible, interoperable, flexible and efficient defence capabilities, designated to meet both EU and NATO commitments, as well as to deter a potential aggression.

# HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS SOUTH-EAST

## path from scratch to NATO Operational Headquarters

New command and control structures on the territory of NATO's Eastern Allies have been considered an effective response to existing security risks and threats, as well as to future challenges.

**A**t the Brussels NATO Summit of July 2018, Romania offered to develop a corps-level land command and control capability on its territory, integrated into the NATO Force Structure (NFS), capable of contributing to the defensive forces' operations planning in the Black Sea Region. The proposal was made in line with of NATO's extensive process of strengthening its deterrence and defence posture in response to major changes affecting the security environment in its immediate neighbourhood. Technological advances, military operational changes and a highly volatile geopolitical environment have been the main drivers behind a lot of developments in the security arena over the last few decades, which forced the Alliance to embark upon a complex and comprehensive process to increase its readiness and responsiveness level.

Two years later, in July 2020, President Klaus IOHANNIS announced, during the military ceremony held at the Joint National Training Centre "GETICA" at CINCUC, the establishment of the Headquarters Multinational Corps South-East (HQ MNC-SE).

It followed an incredibly thriving period for HQ MNC-SE, strained by the pandemic, but abundant in extensive activities and training events. After the HQ Activation as a NATO Military Body by the North Atlantic Council (NAC), in February 2021, the newly established structure went through a new stage of its functional development, at the end of Exercise DEFENDER-Europe 21, in June 2021, when the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) was declared. A month later, HQ MNC-SE was relocated to Sibiu Garrison, in accordance with the approval of the Homeland Defence Supreme Council and its development continues in order to progressively achieve its Intermediate Full Operational Capability (iFOC) by the end of 2022 and, subsequently, Full Operational Capability (FOC) no later than December 2023.

The establishment of the HQ MNC-SE as a NATO military structure in Sibiu occurred as a result of complex strategic analysis of the national defence, and by enactment of defence planning documents adopted at national level.



Activation of the HQ MNC-SE as NATO Body Unit

The respective decisions have been taken based on NATO's strategic process of reflection, EU "Strategic Compass" Plan of Action for strengthening the EU's security and defence as well as Romania-US Strategic Partnership.

When it comes to the relationship that this HQ has with Sibiu, it is based on mutual support. Sibiu offers visibility and consistency from the perspective of historical and military traditions, and, through its social and cultural characteristics as well as its advantageous geographic location, represented a solid option for selecting it as the HQ MNC-SE Garrison.

Russian Federation's unlawful and destabilizing intervention in Ukraine has severe implications for the Euro-Atlantic security and made NATO to increase its readiness and vigilance in response to this crisis. Allies have adopted a robust and capable military posture to deter and, if necessary, defend against any threat to Alliance territory and

populations. As part of this setting, HQ MNC-SE accelerated its operational calendar and will play a central pivotal role in NATO land domain within the Black Sea region, once it achieves FOC.

The FOC declaration means that HQ MNC-SE has the proper manning, equipment and procedures in accordance with NATO standards, and must be ready to defend NATO's South-Eastern flank in Romania and Bulgaria from any potential threat. To fulfil this ambitious objective, this HQ follows several lines of effort which are to shape its structure into a dynamic and combat-focused organization.

Developing the human resource has been a top priority since this Corps has been established. Participation in various courses, workshops and exercises, at all echelons, aims at providing best practices and training opportunities, so that the HQ MNC-SE personnel reach the standards imposed by the operational environment. It is every leader's duty to vigorously train and prepare the staff to assume



HQ MNC-SE Academics

assigned responsibilities in the field of security, to support this HQ to grow as a respected member of the NATO and local communities. Individuals should also assume personal responsibility to reach the expected training levels.

It is generally acknowledged that individual training is a critical requirement for achieving operational readiness and interoperability with NATO allies and partners. However, collaborative work binds and builds up the Alliance collective capacity to operate with a common purpose – defence of the NATO members.

In 2022, among a wide array of training activities, Exercise LOYAL LEDA 22 was the milestone for our Corps' operational development. Capitalizing on the expertise acquired since its establishment, building a highly proficient staff through all training events planned, progressively increasing the manning, and better integration of the multinational personnel will be the main milestones for the year to come. In 2023, developing greater interoperability both within NATO and with strategic partners will be a top priority for HQ MNC-SE. Leveraging every training opportunity, implementing lessons identified from all across NATO, and partners, building robust and resilient relationships with other NATO Corps, constantly growing HQ MNC-SE capacity and capability to respond to challenges throughout the

whole spectrum of conflict will be the main lines of effort. It is in such way that HQ MNC-SE will enhance its future central pivotal role in NATO land domain in the Black Sea Region, in line with NATO's 360-degree approach.

A NATO Corps HQ has a clearly defined role and mission during different phases: competition, crisis, and conflict. The last phase, usually the most demanding for a Corps HQ, also involves a complex shaping operation, intended to achieve an end-state. The corps synchronizes the employment of land power in conjunction with joint and land capabilities as decided at higher echelons.

*“Corps operations shape the operational environment and set the conditions for tactical activities by the division and lower echelons. In combat operations, the corps task-organizes and manoeuvres divisions to destroy enemy land forces, seize key terrain and critical infrastructure, and dominate the land portion of the joint operation area”.*

Thus, critical to shaping the operational environment is the speed of delivering a cascade of effects, paramount to obtaining the desired operational objective.

The governing principle in the decision-making cycle is based on the combat principle: find, fix, manoeuvre, strike, exploit and consolidate. The corps level has always been tactical, fulfilling at least five distinct war-fighting functions: command and control (C2) over three to five divisions, providing ISR capabilities above division level, engaging the adversary in depth with precision deep strike providing, air support for vertical manoeuvre and nonetheless-force protection /air defence in the area of responsibility (AOR).

As part of the NATO Force Structure (NFS), HQ MNC-SE will contribute to deterrence and, when ordered, provides corps-level command and control to NATO land operations during crisis situations or war. This structure is designated to facilitate operational coherence between national and Allied defensive plans, and operational integration with Allied forces to support the security architecture on the Eastern flank of NATO. HQ MNC-SE was built in accordance with NATO standards for Army Corps and is made up military and civilian personnel from several NATO member states. Romania assumed the Framework Nation (FN) responsibility.

Deterrence of any threat to member states' security is the element that lies at the foundation of the NATO strategy. It is here where HQ MNC-SE role becomes relevant in its quality of regional land command and control component of the NFS, part of Romania's solution to manage the increasingly complex and unpredictable threats in the region. From a doctrinal point of view, HQ MNC-SE has been designed to develop in three directions: as an Alliance Army Corps level command and control regional capability, or as the land component of an operation on the Alliance South-Eastern flank, as a pivot to achieve integration in coalition-type missions with one or more strategic partners and as element to elaborate and support the implementation of the national defence military operation.

Considering the above, a very challenging period of time is foreseen. In this framework, creating robust, resilient, credible, interoperable and rapid reaction capabilities rests heavily on the shoulders of the HQ MNC-SE leadership. The Commander's vision, motivation and guidance will build a strong and multinational team and will prepare this Corps to become a reliable NATO body. As Commander of HQ MNC-SE, Major General Dragoş-Dumitru IACOB

has stated: everybody must embrace the “Iron Triangle” – **Attitude, Commitment and Teamwork**.

*“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude”.*

The leadership's positive attitude towards profession, the mission and the personnel are paramount to any organization's success. It will allow us to progress as an organization, evolve as individuals and affirm own identity in pursuing and defending NATO values. Moreover, without the full personal commitment and determination, no goal can be reached. It may be longer working hours and strenuous efforts, demanding projects and challenging tasks, but these features help all teams to grow and become stronger. Last but not least – the “teamwork”. Building a steadfast, united and proficient team is in the best interest of any organization, and looking ahead, participation in future exercises and joint training activities is very important not only for strengthening a Corps' ability to fight, if needed, but also for building up the Alliance collective capacity to operate with a common purpose: *stand united against any form of aggression*.

As our motto says, “FORTIS IN UNUM”.

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Documentation for Wide Wet Gap Crossing





# 7 YEARS OF CHALLENGES, 7 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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**O**n 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022, Headquarters Multinational Division South-East celebrated 7 years since its establishment. The military ceremony took place at the HQ premises in Bucharest, in the presence of the Chief of Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu and the Chief of Romanian Land Forces' Staff, Major General Iulian Berdilă.

*The 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary had a great symbolic significance, 2022 being a milestone because it provided HQ MND-SE the opportunity to show its readiness to command and control NATO Response Force troops, in the strategic Black Sea region. Since the invasion of Ukraine, in February 2022, this NATO headquarters has been fully contributing to the consolidation of the security and stability in its area of operations and to the enhancement of the interoperability of the new NATO Battle Groups in Romania and Bulgaria. The mission, received from SACEUR in 2015, is no longer just a statement, but tested proof of HQ MND-SE capability in achieving its commitment to the Alliance.*

”Congratulations on celebrating the 7th anniversary”, wrote NATO Deputy Secretary General, Mircea GEOANĂ, in a message sent to HQ MND-SE.

“Established in 2015, in the aftermath of Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea, this HQ continues to be an essential contribution to the collective defence of our Alliance and helps strengthen NATO’s deterrence and defence posture on its South-East, especially in the strategically important Black Sea region. This year more than ever, HQ MND-SE has demonstrated that NATO is prepared and capable to deal with a more dangerous security environment, not least with the significant and direct threat posed by Russia to Allies’ security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. This HQ led the effort to command and control NATO Response Force troops. This effort has been an indispensable part of the Alliance’s response to Russia’s brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. I thank those serving at HQ MND-SE, from Romania and many other nations across our great Alliance, for their outstanding work. Together, you help keep NATO strong and our people safe, now and in the future”.

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Daniel PETRESCU, emphasized that, in the current operational environment, HQ MND-SE is more important than we all had imagined few years ago. “This NATO HQ managed to achieve all stages of operational capability, hosted, contributed and led major multinational

exercises, overcame the challenges of the pandemic, played an important part in the process of shaping Headquarters Multinational Corps South East, and faced the implications of the war in Ukraine”.

### SHORT HISTORY

The genesis of this organization emerged during the 2014 Wales NATO Summit, when the Alliance took the necessary steps to reaffirm its commitment to fulfil all three core tasks set out in our Strategic Concept: collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security. Under Joint Force Command Naples (JFCNP) operational control (OPCON) and under the operational command (OPCOM) of Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), Headquarters Multinational Division South-East, activated by the North Atlantic Council (NAC), is able to command and control an Article 5 operation – Collective Defence. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, 1<sup>st</sup> Romanian Infantry Division “DACICA” was transformed into HQ MND-SE. The activation ceremony, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, represented the official integration of the HQ into the NATO Force Structure, based on the Implementation of the Readiness Action Plan from the 2014 Wales Summit. The Headquarters reached its Initial Operational Capability on July 2016 and the Final Operational Capability on March 2018, during Exercise LOYAL LEDA 18. HQ MND-SE continued to support NATO’s three core tasks by serving as NATO’s RSOM HQ in 2021 for the deployment of NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) troops across Europe to train in Bulgaria and Romania. At the end of this year, the HQ will conduct its Combat Readiness Evaluation (its recertification) as part of Exercise LOYAL LEDA 22. Additionally, HQ MND-SE will continue to support HQ MNC-SE to achieve interim FOC during the same exercise. Together, as a coherent NATO team, the two headquarters will achieve every emerging milestone.

Over the past seven years, HQ MND-SE has accomplished every assigned mission. With our fifteen contributing nations, we have coordinated the deployment of the VJTF (Land), supported numerous NATO multinational exercises with our subject matter experts and synchronized countless STRATCOM events to amplify NATO messages and



Graphic repr

themes. Faced with a more dangerous and dynamic security environment, HQ MND-SE stands ready to meet the Alliance’s commitments established at the 2022 Madrid Summit. “Now, more than ever, our actions carry a profound significance towards current activities across the continent. Going forward, we will continue to train, lead, command and control additional robust in-place combat-ready forces in Bulgaria and Romania”, stated Brigadier General Dorin TOMA, Commander of HQ MND-SE. NATO Forward Presence Battle Groups in our area



of operations highlight the Alliance’s commitment to enhancing our collective defence. HQ MND-SE stands ready to fulfill its wartime mission and support the Alliance.

### **NATO RESPONSE FORCE & NATO BATTLE GROUPS – “UNITED IN PURPOSE”**

After the invasion of Ukraine, on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, for the first time in NATO history, the defence plans were activated and **NATO Response Force**

was deployed for collective defence and deterrence purposes, as a clear commitment to Article 5 of The Washington Treaty to do what it takes to protect and defend every inch of NATO territory. Within 48 hours since the decision of deployment, 500 French highly trained soldiers arrived at Mihail Kogălniceanu Airbase in Romania, where they were joined by Belgian forces. Then, NATO Military Command established the deployment of four new Battle Groups (BGs) on the South-Eastern flank of the Alliance in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, similar to those



French soldiers in a joint training exercise with Romanian soldiers

operating on the North-Eastern flank in Poland and the Baltic States. The main effort for HQ MND-SE was initially to enhance the establishment of BGs in Romania and Bulgaria and ensure they are ready to support the National Defence Forces.

From 15 March 2022 onwards and for the foreseeable future, HQ MND-SE has taken command of several formations, units and small units, as part of NATO's Forward Presence in Romania and Bulgaria. The Multinational Brigade South-East used to be part of the tailored Forward Presence (tFP). The units consist of two multinational (MN) Battlegroups (BGs). In Romania, we have a MN BG with France as Framework Nation (FN) and an integrated Belgian or Dutch company on a rotational basis. In Bulgaria, we are talking about an Italian FN MN BG with an integrated Bulgarian company and smaller contributions from seven other

nations. As the composition of capabilities of the BGs will continue to evolve over the next rotations, each will have well over a 1,000 troops and significant direct and indirect fire capabilities.

HQ MND-SE is responsible for the Combat Enhancement Training and Force Integration Training the BG conducts in the theatre. Working with the respective HN, they made sure each rotation had a full and challenging training calendar. Training varies from parachute jumps for French soldiers with Romanian equipment at company level, live fire exercises with platoons consisting of soldiers of different nations embedded in the company, to Command Post Exercises for the Brigade and BG Command Posts fighting over some key terrain against a "Red Team" or "enemy force" provided by HQ MND-SE.

From the logistic support perspective, challenges posed by the new security environment were overcome through

flexibility and coordination with all stakeholders. Assuming the role of Host Nation Support coordinator was an implied task, as we had to support not only the reception of the NATO Forces, but also their training as part of the integration process. Updating the procedures in order to overcome the amount of logistic processes began with the transition from a plan to a real operation mindset. Tactical level support also included HQ MND-SE acting as a regional NATO movement coordination center and providing visibility to higher headquarters and coordination for more than 300 transport NATO missions in our area of operations (A00). All that has contributed to the development of a new tactical logistic concept for the ground forces. In addition to that, the integration of all the lessons learned identified during the operation is another valuable contribution to the future allied operations in our A00.

By individual and collective training, HQ MND-SE became the regional hub in our areas of expertise, following the principle “Train as you fight”. There is no doubt that this headquarters is ready, willing and

able to remain “Semper Vigilantes” to deter and, if needed, to defend every inch of NATO territory in the strategic Black Sea region, against any threat or challenge.

NATO multinational battlegroups are defensive, proportionate and fully in line with our international commitments. They are a clear demonstration of Alliance solidarity, determination and ability to defend NATO’s population and territory against any possible aggression. It aims at preserving peace and preventing conflicts, and forms part of a broader effort of reinforcing Alliance’s deterrence and defence posture.

We are ready to use all allied assets on station, enhancing the new battlegroups up to brigade level, being reinforced faster and becoming more agile in crisis or conflict. For a consolidated level of readiness, a much higher number of troops will be ready to deploy sooner at a highly increased rate. Based on SACEUR’s vision, HQ MND-SE is fully contributing to the creation of a safer and more secure environment for the 1 billion citizens of the Alliance.



The arrival of French soldiers from the Forward Presence Battle Group

# Headquarters MULTINATIONAL BRIGADE SOUTH – EAST

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**A**s a NATO ally, Romania hosts important allied facilities on its territory: Headquarters Multinational Corps South – East in Sibiu, Headquarters Multinational Division South – East and NATO Forces Integration Unit in Bucharest and the Headquarters Multinational Brigade South – East in Craiova.

The commitment that the NATO member states assumed within these multinational projects crystallized in manning the above mentioned NATO structures, for which Romania is the framework nation. Multinational personnel are the strongest indicator of the determination of the Alliance members to contribute to its security and to generate operational structures with a high degree of performance and professionalism.

The Headquarters Multinational Brigade South – East (HQ MN BDE – SE) is the first multinational structure of this level certified by NATO on its South – Eastern flank, being set up for the implementation of the tailored Forward Presence (tFP), on the land dimension, under the coordination of the Headquarters Multinational Division South – East in Bucharest. This approach is a defining element in support of the development and consolidation of regional security, to which Romania committed at the NATO Summit in Warsaw, in 2016.

2<sup>nd</sup> “Rovine” Infantry Brigade was the frame work brigade for HQ MN BDE–SE, which that declared its Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in April 2017, with at least nine NATO allies interested in joining it. MN BDE – SE was activated, as a NATO command, starting with June 27, 2017.

On November 15, 2018, the Full Operational Capability (FOC) of the HQ MN BDE – SE was declared following Exercise “SCORPIONS FURY 18”, conducted at the Joint National Training Center, located in Cincu. Around 1,800 troops from eight NATO Allied member states (Bulgaria, Canada, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain) took part in the Romanian – led exercise SCORPIONS FURY 18, which aimed at assessing the capacity of the HQ MN BDE – SE of carrying out its assigned mission, by conducting computer – assisted command exercises, field training and live fire exercises.



Joint Training Exercise JUSTICE EAGLE 22.II,  
in Secondary Training Combat Center located in Smârdan

Starting with 2019, the series of Multinational Exercises “SCORPIONS LEGACY” led by HQ MN BDE – SE, provided the training framework for the assigned and affiliated units from Bulgaria, Italy and Portugal, as well as for the US troops stationed on Romanian soil. The aim of this joint training was to improve mutual knowledge and trust among participating units, increase their interoperability in a multinational context and, consequently, enhance NATO’s readiness and deterrence in the South – Eastern area.

Additionally, there are more than 5 years since Multinational Brigade South – East maneuver units have been training alongside the Polish Military Contingent deployed to Romania, as part of NATO tFP. At this demanding rate, the training has moved to a new level, once with the first deployment of the Portuguese Contingent to Romania, in September 2021, and intensified at the beginning of this year, when the NATO Battle Group Forward Presence (BGFP), led by France in partnership with Belgium and the Netherlands, was established in Romania.

At the same time, over the last 5 years, the equipping of the Multinational Brigade South – East maneuver units with new combat vehicles and pieces of equipment entering the units’ service (8x8 armored carriers – Piranha V, Spike LR Missiles, etc.) represented other challenges which brigade troops successfully surpassed, while improving their skills and proficiency level.

In the light of the above mentioned reference points, we firmly believe that over the next year’s training events, the recertification process will be a natural step, rather than a stumbling block for Headquarters Multinational Brigade South – East.

On another note, it is through exercises and the NATO Standardization processes that NATO units become force multipliers and very effective, and Multinational Brigade South – East makes no exception. Therefore, we can emphatically state that there is one combat – ready unit able to secure and protect the South Eastern flank of the Alliance.





# The ROMANIAN LAND FORCES

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**T**he Romanian Land Forces were established 153 years ago; together with the other national military structures, the Romanian Land Forces have had the same fundamental mission: defending the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. According to legal regulations, the Romanian Land Forces accomplish a wide range of essential missions: supporting the central and local public administration authorities during emergency situations, assisting the population and managing the consequences of disasters and technological accidents; on the other hand, they are also actively involved in the effort of supporting the local and global security and defending the allies and partners within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union. In order to accomplish these missions, the Romanian Land Forces carry out a wide range of operations on land and airborne, independently and jointly, as part of national and multinational organizations, on the national territory or abroad.

## THE ROMANIAN LAND FORCES' EQUIPMENT (TYPES OF TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT)

Over the last two decades, the Romanian Land Forces have gone through many stages of reorganization which, among other things, have targeted the reorganization of the command system, the implementation of voluntary conscription, the operational integration into NATO and EU; the objectives of these processes are: modernizing the force structure, implementing a modern military education system, procuring military equipment and technologies.

The modernization and acquisition process, which has increased over the last ten years, reached its peak in 2020, when the units were equipped with the latest generation armored personnel carriers, and in the following period, with PATRIOT surface-to-air missile system. The revival began by increasing transportation and maintenance capacity, as well as updating communications and information



Romanian tank TR 85 M1  
"BIZONUL" (the buffalo)

systems. The mobility, firing capability, compatibility and interoperability of the Romanian Land Forces are presented as indicators of the modernization of previous equipment or acquisition of the state-of-art one. The Romanian Land Forces have in their service both operational equipment manufactured at the end of the 20th century, such as armored amphibious transporters (TAB-71, TAB-77, TAB-79, TABC-79, TABB-33 ZIMBRUL, MLVM, MLI 84), tanks (TR-55, TR-85), anti-aircraft missile systems (2K12M KUB, 9K33M3 OSA-AKM, CA-95 / 9K31 STRELA, etc.), DAC and ROMAN trucks (in different configurations, traction variants, with different purposes , ranging from personnel and supply transport to equipment, pontoons, boats or towing installations such as guns, shells and missiles, radars, containers, communications equipment, generators, etc.), as well as modern and combat equipment made by either upgrading the older ones such as the TR 85 M1 BIZONUL, MLI 84M JDERUL, or by procuring new equipment, such as: IVECO and ROMAN trucks, URO VAMTAC, HMMWV, PANHARD PVP, WOLF vehicles, anti-mine armor MNRAP, PIRANHA IIIC and PIRANHA V armored personnel carriers and their derivatives, Volkswagen Transporter, LAROM, HIMARS, PATRIOT missile systems and batteries, self-propelled anti-aircraft

systems, communication equipment and radio stations, etc.

The modern equipment employed by the Romanian Land Forces: the 4X4 URO VAMTAC vehicle; HMMWV vehicle; The armored personnel carrier 8X8 PIRANHA III C; 8X8 PIRANHA V armored personnel carrier; Armored vehicle 6X6 MRAP, COUGAR armored vehicle; MLI-84M "JDERUL" Infantry Fighting Vehicle; TR 85 M1 "BISON"; 2 X 35 AD "GEPARD" System; 2 X 35 AD Oerlikon "VIFORUL" system; LAROM artillery systems; VAMTAC S3 four-wheel vehicle; HARRIS RADIO station on CHEVROLET TAHOE chassis; PATRIOT surface-to-air missile system; The M142 HIMARS system.

### STRUCTURE OF THE ROMANIAN LAND FORCES

Currently, the Romanian Land Forces consist of infantry divisions, combat brigades, combat support brigades, logistics bases, communication centers, combat and logistics support battalions, as well as education and training structures. The command and control element of the Romanian Land Forces is the General Staff of the Land Forces, located in peacetime in the capital Bucharest.

**Headquarters Multinational Division Southeast (HQ MNDSE)** is activated by the North Atlantic Council and placed under the operational command of Supreme Allied Commander Europe. As of March 22, 2018, it was placed under the operational control of Joint Force Command Naples and is prepared to provide command and control of NATO Article 5 – collective defence operations. Its Initial Capability was declared on July 1, 2016, and it reached Final Operational Capability on March 22, 2018. This multinational command is manned by officers, WOs, and NCOs from 15 participating nations: Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States and Romania, which is the framework nation. The multinational structure includes formations and units, including the HQ Multinational Brigade Southeast, one of the most modern capabilities of the Romanian Armed Forces. The Headquarters of the South-East Multinational Brigade, located



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 HQ MND SE personnel during the  
 National Military Parade

in Craiova garrison, was established following the decisions taken at the Warsaw Summit in 2016 through the reorganization of the 2nd Mechanized Brigade “Rovine”. After an intense certification process, the Headquarters Multinational Brigade South – East reached its final operational capability in 2018. Currently, the Headquarters Multinational Brigade South – East is responsible for providing command and control of a brigade-level structure conducting Art 5 collective defence operations, thus contributing to territorial security and the security of the population from the South-East of the European continent. Military personnel from Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Hungary are assigned to the multinational structure. As a result of the integration of the brigade into the architecture of NATO units, one of its missions is to contribute to NATO Enhanced Forward Presence in Poland by providing an air defence detachment (on a rotational basis) and being part of the US-led Battle Group NATO; it also contributes to the tailored Forward Presence, by hosting the Polish military contingent deployed on Romanian territory, within the 26th Infantry Battalion “Neagoe Basarab”.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division “Getica”.** The large tactical level unit, based in the Buzău garrison, continues the

tradition of the 2nd Army Corps, established during the First World War. Its longstanding existence has been marked by transformations, including periodic dismantling, but since 2020, the 2nd Infantry Division “Getica” has been a large representative unit of the Romanian Army, its area of responsibility covering the East, South-East and South of Romania, comprising 21 counties and the capital, Bucharest. It can be stated that the 2nd Infantry Division “Getica” defends the Romanian Eastern flank and, implicitly, part of the Eastern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance. Within the North Atlantic Alliance, the execution of the mission with its own units brought not only the unanimous recognition of the allied member states and other partner states, but has taken a heavy toll. Thus, 18 of the 30 heroes who lost their lives in the theaters of operations are part of the structures belonging to the 2nd “Getica” Infantry Division. Annual participation of 2nd Infantry Division personnel in training activities, both domestically and abroad, has been steady. The 2nd Infantry Division participated in more than 20 multinational exercises on the national territory or outside its borders in 2022. The 2nd Infantry Division “Getica” consists of an armored brigade, two mechanized



Live Fire Exercise “HENIU 20” at  
“Getica” National Joint Training Center from Cincu

brigades, two mountain troop brigades, a logistic base, one ISR regiment, one air defence regiment, two mixed artillery regiments, one communications and information technology battalion, one engineer battalion, one CBRN defence and disaster response battalion, one logistics support battalion and an EOD group.

**4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division “Gemina”** is a large tactical unit, established in the historical capital of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca. Currently, the area of responsibility of the 4<sup>th</sup> “Gemina” Infantry Division covers the northern half of the country. The missions of the 4<sup>th</sup> “Gemina” Infantry Division are in accordance with the provisions of the North Atlantic Alliance and include, in addition to the objectives assumed at the national and international level, the provision of support and cooperation with central and local public authorities when addressing emergency situations. The exercises carried out within the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division aim both at improving the individual and collective skills of the military, as well as at strengthening and developing interoperability within its structures. Thus, at predetermined intervals, commanders and forces participate in complex

training activities to improve the implementation of NATO-specific procedures. The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division “Gemina” consists of two of the largest mechanized brigades, a mountain troops brigade, a logistic base, an ISR regiment, an air defence regiment, a mixed artillery regiment, a communications and intelligence battalion, an engineer battalion, a CBRN defence battalion, a logistics support battalion and an EOD group.

**18<sup>th</sup> Surveillance – Research Brigade “Decebal”** covers a wide range of missions in both ground and air and naval environments. The brigade consists of reconnaissance-surveillance, mountain reconnaissance-surveillance, depth reconnaissance, air defence, sensor and logistics support battalions. Therefore, the military are prepared to carry out research and surveillance missions, on rugged terrain, both in mountainous and maritime areas. Missions carried out in theaters of operations by the 18<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance-Surveillance Brigade culminated in 2013 with the deployment of 1,200 fighters to Afghanistan. In order to ensure interoperability among the structures participating in these joint training exercises, NATO standard

operating procedures are implemented. So far, the 18th Research-Surveillance Brigade has deployed an important number of military personnel in the main theaters of operations where the Romanian Army contributes to ensuring security and stability. A subunit of the brigade is also permanently ready to intervene in NATO KFOR operations in Kosovo and EU ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**8<sup>th</sup> Mixed Artillery Brigade “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”** is a large land force artillery unit, subordinated to the Land Forces Staff, located in Focșani garrison. The 8 LAROM Brigade aims at providing fire support to the maneuver forces, within the operative force groups, by carrying out standard tactical missions and non-standard missions on the national territory, such as participation by order in emergency situations and relief missions in case of natural disasters and technological accidents. Following the 2010 reorganization, the large unit currently consists of: a brigade headquarters with a support subunit, three combat units, a combat support unit and a logistics support unit.

**10<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade “Dunărea de Jos”**, with its headquarters in Brăila, consists of the brigade headquarters, four engineer units, a river crossing unit and a logistic support unit. The brigade carried out a variety of specific engineering support missions in the theaters of operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Afghanistan, demonstrating that the expertise of Romanian engineers is at least at the same standard as that of allied partners. Currently, the 10th Engineer Brigade “Lower Danube” is involved in the implementation of international agreements and of the regional engineer specific initiatives and constantly participates in multinational exercises with NATO member states or partners, providing specialized expertise, troops and equipment.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Logistic Base “Valahia”**. Since its establishment in 2002, Logistics Base 2 “Valahia” has operated as a large unit, comprising units and small units designed to provide integrated logistic support. 2nd Logistic Base “Valahia” carried out logistical support missions for large units and for the Romanian Land Forces’ units that participated in stability and peacekeeping operations, in conflict or post-conflict environments, independently or within the multinational NATO , UN, EU. The current tasks

of the large logistics unit are: purchasing goods and services, providing for the maintenance of vehicles, armaments, materials, ammunition and military equipment. 2nd Logistic Base “Valahia” annually conducts over 300 transport missions with 80-90 vehicles, covering up to 400,000 km and transporting over 4,000 tons of materials for the administration of more than 300 barracks, including both self-directed and outsourced repairs, reception, storage and distribution of goods.

**The National Joint Training Centre “Getica”**. This large unit, located in Cincu area, Brașov County, supports the training of national, allied and partner forces at the joint, combined and multinational level, in accordance with national and NATO doctrines, by replicating a complex, current and realistic operational environment. The center has four firing ranges, with firing sectors and specific maneuvering areas and with specialized structures that arbitrate and make available to the commanders the results of the actual firing. The center develops specific scenarios and provides observers-controllers and instructors. The OPFOR battalion is a unique structure in the Romanian Army, necessary for the replication of conventional, hybrid and adaptable threats specific to the current operational environment. The Training Support

Live Fire Exercise with Romanian tank TR 85 M1 “BIZONUL” (the buffalo)



Battalion provides real logistic support to all structures of the Joint National Training Center. By using the MILES/HITS/TESS real-world simulation system, the Center develops dual-match exercises against a realistic and adaptive OPFOR to provide commanders with observations about the readiness of the units they command. Training exercises are conducted through “constructive



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Romanian servicemembers  
in Kandahar, Afghanistan

simulation”, with a headquarters simulated in real conditions, which manages subordinate structures and controls the actions of all organic elements of computer-simulated combat personnel and equipment. The Joint National Training Center “Getica” has recently increased its training capabilities, completing

several infrastructure projects with the help of French, Dutch, Belgian and American partners. Currently, the Joint National Training Center “Getica” is capable of conducting training and evaluation firings with individual or group/ crew armament, up to platoon level, as well as helicopter firings.

**1<sup>st</sup> CIMIC Battalion** is the only military unit within the Romanian Army specialized in the field of civil-military cooperation. The unit performs three basic CIMIC functions: liaising with the civilian environment, supporting military structures and supporting civilian actors. In peacetime, according to NATO’s new CIMIC doctrine, the 1st CIMIC Battalion focuses on resilience and inter-agency cooperation. To achieve these objectives, the 1st Battalion CIMIC maintains constant collaboration with the US Civil Affairs teams located in Romania, practicing joint training and conducting specific actions in a real environment. Over the past few years, the unit has deployed teams of CIMIC specialists to theaters of operations in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, as well as UN-mandated military observers in the Ivory Coast, Congo, Georgia, Liberia and Sudan.

**The 265<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion “Tudor Vladimirescu”** is an elite unit of the Romanian Land Forces, destined to ensure the building, maintenance and development of the operational capacities of the troops necessary to carry out military police missions, in support of the large units and the national and/or NATO/EU units. Military policemen have gained a lot of experience by carrying out an entire spectrum of specific missions carried out over the years both domestically and abroad, especially in Somalia, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Afghanistan.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING STRUCTURES

“**Nicolae Bălcescu**” Land Forces Academy proudly counts 176 years of experience and hard work in the field of military education in Romania, and over a century since its establishment in Sibiu. It is a higher military

education institution integrated into the national education system, with university autonomy guaranteed by law and with legal personality, capable of organizing and conducting accredited bachelor's and master's programs and training commissioned officer leaders for the Romanian Land Forces, as well as other beneficiaries from the national defence system, public order and other national security system. "Nicolae Bălcescu" Land Forces Academy organizes Bachelor Degree studies in Military Management, Military Sciences and Economic and Administrative Sciences and Master's studies in Military Leadership, Military Capability Management, Management and Technology, as well as Organizational Intelligence specialties. It also offers programs for advanced studies, doctoral research and hosts other postgraduate studies.

**"Basarab I" Military School for Warrant Officers and Noncommissioned Officers** has trained thousands of young high school graduates to become non-commissioned officers in the Romanian Land Forces, over the past 25 years. The main mission of the school is the primary training of subordinate warrant officers as specialists in the exploitation, repair and maintenance of armaments, technical equipment and assets, and non-commissioned officers as fighters, leaders of the structures laying at the basis of the military hierarchy; both categories are prepared to become resourceful trainers, go through all stages of their careers and meet the Army's requirements.

**"Mihai Viteazul" Multibranch Training School of the Land Forces.** In accordance with the traditions of the old Officers' School of the Armor Branch, the Multi-branch Training School ensures the initial and continuous training of active-duty military personnel, as well as volunteer reserve forces from the Romanian Land Forces branches and MOS-es. Starting 2022, the school integrated into its structure the Maneuver Training Center, the Combat Support Training Center and 12 Training Center in the fields of Infantry, Armour, ISR, Paratroopers and JTAC, Artillery, Engineers, CBRN Defence, Mountain Hunters, Communications and Informatics, Logistics, Military Police, EOD and C-IED, and Operational Medicine. All these provide for the training and specialization of professional military personnel in all military occupational specialties.



Graduation ceremony at Land Forces Academy

**"Ștefan cel Mare" National Military High-School.** Over the last 80 years, "Ștefan cel Mare" Câmpulung Moldovenesc National Military College has provided over 13,000 graduates. Most of them pursued the military career, more than 200 of the former graduates reaching the rank of general. Today, the high school offers a modern and efficient education, through the implementation of well-founded educational programs and a quality management system.

## MULTINATIONAL MISSIONS AND EXERCISES

**Afghanistan.** Between 2002 – 2020, the Romanian Land Forces, along with other formations of the Romanian Armed Forces, have contributed with 30,000 military personnel by engaging brigade level structures (6 rotations), infantry battalion-level

structures– maneuver and force protection (40 rotations), infantry companies (3 rotations), training detachments of the Afghan National Army and military police detachments (36 rotations, also with several detachments acting simultaneously in various Afghan provinces), “province reconstruction” teams (7 rotations), and other types of detachments and teams in the field of logistic support, military education, weaponry training, military counseling and staff training. Currently, the Land Forces are participating with almost 775 soldiers in Resolute Support Mission.

Starting 1990, the Romanian Land Forces have participated in missions conducted on three continents, engaging a number of over 40,000 troops. In 2022, the Romanian Land Forces conducted exercises both domestically and abroad.

**Iraq.** Over 2003 – 2009, as part of the *Iraqi Freedom* stabilization and reconstruction operation, the Romanian Land Forces deployed infantry battalions (12 rotations), engineering detachments (6 rotations), infantry and mountain troop companies (4 rotations), staff personnel, liaison officers and officers designated to reorganize the ministries, thus, contributing with approximately 6,000 soldiers. As the provocations continue in Iraq, the Romanian Land Forces have resumed support missions for the Iraqi army, even if at a smaller scale than before. By rotation, the Iraqi partners benefit from staff personnel and teams of instructors for the training of armor, engineer and artillery formations leaders.

**The Western Balkans.** Currently, the Romanian Land Forces have deployed within KFOR NATO a military police detachment, a strategic reserve detachment that is permanently placed at NATO’s disposal for Kosovo, as well as an intermediate reserve detachment for Bosnia. Under the EU mandate, in the Western Balkans, the Romanian



Cadets from “Ștefan cel Mare”  
National Military High School

Land Forces participate with staff personnel in Operation ALTHEEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina and with a reconnaissance team in Kosovo, within Operation KOSOVO FORCE.

**Poland.** The biggest challenge for the Romanian Land Forces is the participation with 120 air defence artillery soldiers, starting 2017, within the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland, in order to secure consolidated forward positions on the North-Eastern flank of the Alliance, alongside the American, British, Croatian and Polish forces. So far, we have deployed ten Romanian air defence contingents to Poland.

A number of over 250 soldiers of the Romanian Land Forces are expected to be deployed in 2022 in international missions.

Currently, the Romanian Land Forces are engaged in missions alongside other structures of NATO member countries and also participate in training and



Justice Eagle 22.1

interoperability exercises, alongside representatives of other NATO member countries or partners. In 2022, the Romanian Land Forces conducted exercises both domestically and abroad, such as:

**RED SCORPIONS 22.1** (Romania): The 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, together with military personnel of the Polish Military Contingent, conducted RED SCORPIONS 22.1 exercise within CINCUS Firing Range, between February 26 and March 2022. During the exercise, military operations in urban environment, individual firing sessions with all types of weapons and a LFX-type tactical exercise with combat firing were carried out. The main objective of this exercise was training jointly with the Polish partners to increase interoperability with the Allied structures.

**JUSTICE EAGLE 22.1** (Romania): Approximately 900 Romanian and US soldiers, with over 70 technical means, trained together within “Justice Eagle 22.1”

exercise that took place over 2-10 March, at the Secondary Combat Training Center of the Romanian Land Forces. The Romanian participating military personnel is part of the units of the 9<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești” (341<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion “Constanța”, 911<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion “Capidava”, 912<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion “Scythia Minor”, 114<sup>th</sup> Armor Battalion “Petru Cercel” and 168<sup>th</sup> Logistic Support Battalion “Pontus Euxinus”).

The goal of this exercise was to demonstrate the ability to react to the action of an opponent, based on a fictitious scenario. The objectives were verifying the deployment/re-deployment capacity of the forces and the available combat equipment, the forces’ integration within multinational context, the implementation of the standard operating procedures, the increase of the cohesion and interoperability of the forces. “Justice Eagle 22.1” Exercise, organized by the 9<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Brigade



Red Scorpions

“Mărășești”, took place on the basis of a unique imaginary scenario, adapted to possible operational threats, with the aim of developing functional relations between the participating structures and harmonizing operational procedures specific to offensive operations.

On March 10, as part of the media event, a joint LFX (Live Fire tactical Exercise) was performed at company level within the Secondary Combat Training Center Smârdan, with the aim of training the units and evaluating the mission accomplished-status. Combat firings during the exercise were carried out with T-55 tanks, TAB-77 armored personnel carriers, “Bradley” combat vehicles and Stryker armored personnel carriers.

Multinational exercise “Justice Eagle” takes place annually on Romania’s territory with the goals of increasing the interoperability of NATO member armed forces, maintaining the capability of joint deployment and training through logistic support exercises by developing a regional

environment favorable to multinational military cooperation.

The American soldiers participating in “Justice Eagle 22.1” Exercise are part of the detachments deployed to Romania as part of the measures taken to strengthen the allied position on the entire NATO Eastern flank, as a defensive formula to ensure the security of the allies and to deter aggressive actions in the Black Sea region.

**JTAC NATIONAL PROGRAM (Romania):** The JTAC National Program includes the joint training of controllers in the final integrated attack area, with aircraft provided by American and NATO partners. Thus, on March 29, in the area of Boboc Airfield, Buzău County, the American partner secured two B-52 aircraft and the British and Italian partners two Eurofighter aircraft each for the simulated training, without ammunition and met with JTAC qualified specialists at NATO level within the ISR, Paratroopers and JTAC Training Center “Major General Grigore Bastan” and the structures of the

American partner located in the 57<sup>th</sup> Air Base “Mihail Kogalniceanu”. The activity offered the opportunity to increase the training level, but also to use NATO tactics and procedures in a multinational framework.

**SCORPIONS LEGACY 22 (Romania):** On Friday, June 3, Major General Iulian Berdila, Chief of Land Forces Staff, participated together with the Chief of Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu, the Chief of Defence of the Republic of Portugal, Admiral Antonio Manuel Fernandes da Silva Ribeiro and the commander of the Headquarters Multinational Division South East (HQ MND SE), Major General Cristian Dan, at the Distinguished Visitors’ Day organized on the occasion of Exercise “SCORPIONS LEGACY 22” (SCLE 22), which took place between May 24 and June 3, from the Secondary Combat Training School in Smârdan, Galați County.

Approximately 1,800 Romanian allied soldiers with over 250 technical means participated in this exercise which aimed at training the personnel of the HQ Multinational Brigade South-East, together with Task Force Tiger, Task Force Ghost and the soldiers of the affiliated units to the exercises in Bulgaria, Italy and Portugal. SCLE 22 also sought to increase interoperability through computer-aided command exercises, field troop training, as well as tactical training with combat firings. Through such training events, HQ Multinational Brigade South-East trains to be able to command forces deployed in the South-East region of NATO, in order to contribute to the collective defence of the Alliance.

**CEREMONY AND DEMONSTRATIVE EXERCISE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY DEPLOYED TO ROMANIA:** On Saturday, July 30, the Deputy Chief of Land Forces Staff, Major General Cristian Dan, participated together with the Prime Minister of Romania, Nicolae Ciucă, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu, and the commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Major General Joseph McGee, in the US unit colors uncasing ceremony, which took place at the 57<sup>th</sup> Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, in Constanța County. On this occasion, forces and means belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Team Brigade of the American

101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault) Division, deployed to Romania following the decisions taken at the Madrid NATO Summit, carried out a demonstrative exercise, together with soldiers of the 341<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion “White Sharks” and of the 9th Mechanized Brigade “Mărășești”.

Also, a Romania/US Air and Land Showcase was organized, a combined demonstration of U.S. Army and Romanian military might featuring a display of the two armies’ combined military capabilities to include attack helicopters, artillery, small arms and machine guns, tanks, combat engineers, and combat medics.

Members of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) began arriving at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base in June. The units are here in support of the U.S. Army V Corps’ mission to bolster NATO’s Eastern flank and participate in multinational exercises, along with allies and partners in Europe. Approximately 4,700 soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division will be deployed to military bases in Europe.

**DANUBE STRIKE:** Structures of the 528<sup>th</sup> ISR Regiment “Vlad Țepeș” from Brăila, together with C COY 1 ROYAL IRISH belonging to Great Britain’s Land Forces and Romanian Air Force aircraft, carried out, during 5-9 September, the FTX-type multinational field training exercise “Danube Strike” at the Secondary Combat Training Center in Babadag.

The purpose of the exercise was to train the involved structures and exercise, plan, train, execute

Ceremony and demonstration exercise of the American Ground Forces deployed in Romania





Fire Shield 22.2

and develop combined and joint tactical actions on rough, wooded terrain in order to achieve cohesion and interoperability as well as to implement and practice the concept of Warfighting Development around Light Reconnaissance Concept (LRS WARDEV) by British forces.

During the deployment of the “Danube Strike”, a series of procedures were tested, validated and harmonized (commanding troops at company and platoon level) for training maneuver forces and combat support forces in acting against the adversary, improving the capacity to provide communications and IT support, or achieving cohesion and increasing the level of interoperability among own structures and those belonging to Great Britain’s or the partners’ land forces. This type of activities help achieve the ability to quickly deploy forces with high reaction capacity and train ISR companies, in a multinational environment, for the execution of military operations and increase the level of interoperability among similar structures of NATO member countries.

**FIRE SHIELD 22.2:** The detachment made up of soldiers of the 335th Artillery Battalion “Alexandru cel Bun” from Botoșani, together with soldiers of the National Armed Force of the Republic of Moldova and the United States of America, participated, over September 13-22, in the annual Multinational Joint Training Exercise “Fire Shield – 22.2”, held in the

Bulboaca Training Range of the Military Training Base of the Republic of Moldova’s National Armed Force.

The Multinational Exercise “Fire Shield – 22.2” mainly aimed at increasing interoperability and joint action capability, improving the coordination process of military operations in a multinational framework and joint training with artillery equipment by using the same techniques, tactics and procedures.

An important moment of the exercise was the Distinguished Visitors’ Day, which took place on September 22 and which was attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu, the Defence Minister of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Anatolie Nosatîi, the Commander of the National Armed Force of the Republic of Moldova, Brigadier General Eduard Ohladciuc, Director of Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, North Carolina National Guard Major General Marvin T. Hunt and representatives of the Land Forces Staff, Colonel Claudiu Tămas and Colonel Daniel-Ion Gogoescu.

In his speech, General Daniel Petrescu highlighted the fact that solidarity and cohesion between the military personnel is achieved, first of all, through joint exercises. “Together with colleagues from the Republic of Moldova, we defend the same values, having common goals. It is the second time I participate in the annual series of this multinational exercise, which is an indicator of progress in the field of joint Romanian-Moldovan training. I will still be present at the main sequences of the force training program. I will keep my commitment and be with the military personnel to support the efforts they make in the national and multinational training firing ranges”, said the Chief of the Defence Staff.

**AMBER DESIRE 22-2 (Lithuania):** Representatives of the Air Defence Detachment “Gheparzii Transilvani” participated, together with the American and British partners from the Battle Group Poland, as well as the Polish representatives of the 15th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, in Exercise “Amber Desire 22 – 2”, which was conducted this week in Alytus, Lithuania. On this occasion, the multinational training activity was attended by senior representatives of the Lithuanian Army, the Deputy Commander of the Multinational Division NE in Elblag, the commander of the 15th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, as well as the command team of the Battle Group Poland, together with the

commanders of the Romanian and British contingents. Starting from April, for approximately 6 months, the Romanian contingent “Transylvanian Cheetahs”, a structure generated by the 3rd Air Defence Battalion “Potaissa”, has been training in a multinational environment, alongside the allies of the Polish Battle Group, under the coordination of the Joint Forces Command.

**SABER JUNCTION 22** (Germany): Approximately 4,400 military personnel from 13 NATO allied and partner countries (Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Georgia, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Great Britain, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, Hungary), together with the American military personnel, participated, in September, in Multinational Exercise “Saber Junction 22”, which took place at the Hohenfels Training Base, Germany. The main objective of Multinational Exercise Saber Junction 22 was to increase interoperability and cooperation between NATO partners and allies.

During the first days, the soldiers checked the military equipment and stocks and participated in training courses necessary to successfully carry out the tasks provided in the tactical scenario.

The “Carpathian Falcons” went through an intense period of training within the Multinational Exercise “SABER JUNCTION 22” over the last four weeks. Despite the heavy weather, the soldiers from Bistrita went through all the stages provided by the tactical scenario with determination. Under the motto “Train as you fight!”, they executed offensive and defensive actions in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

After the completion of the tactical tasks, the after-action review took place, where the observers-controllers highlighted the good parts and those that need improvement, for each participating structure.



.....  
Danube Strike

At the end of the activity, the soldiers received and offered awards and certificates of appreciation. A “falcon” was nominated among the “Heroes of Hohenfels”, corporal Axente Radu, who stood out for his professionalism and dedication, managing during the exercise to shoot down most of the opponent’s armored vehicles and helicopters.

Saber Junction 22  
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# ROMANIAN AIR FORCE STAFF

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The Romanian Air Force, as an integrative part of the most powerful collective defence system in the world, develops into a new concept and acts in accordance with the policies set out by the National Security Strategy of Romania. Having a homogeneous and dynamic structure, the Romanian Air Force is a modern, consistent, tactical, operational and strategic component of the national defence system. Joint activities, multinational exercises and missions carried out in the theaters of operations, have proven, each time, the competence and professionalism of its airmen and airwomen.

**T**he Romanian Air Force main mission is to generate, use and sustain air power in combat operations, together with the Allies or the coalition partners. Not only that Romanian Air Force accomplishes its missions assigned within the national or collective defence arrangements, but it also supports civilian authorities during humanitarian crises.

The efficiency of a state's air power depends to a considerable extent on equipping the air force structures in accordance with their objectives and missions.

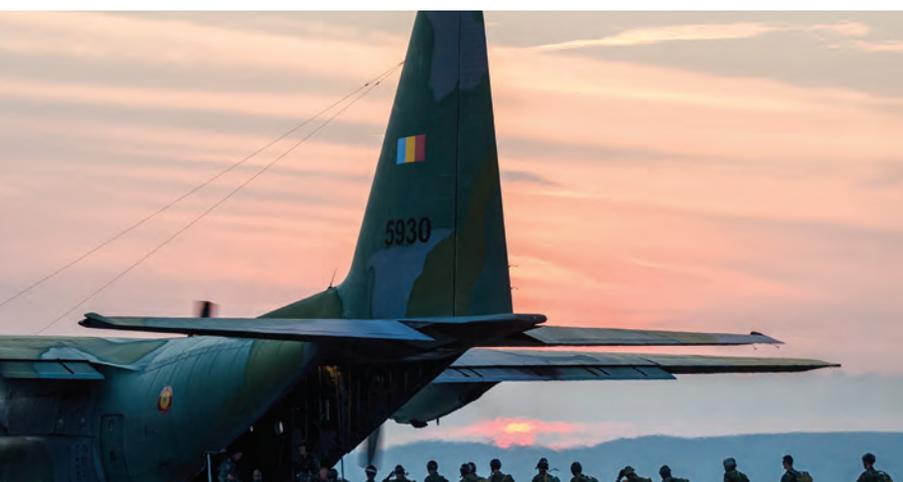
Romanian Air Forces have proven to be an absolutely necessary entity in the evolution of the armed forces, and the national airspace defence must meet the expectations of the world strategic stage; the accomplishment of the mission becomes paramount to all other considerations.

Aviation is gradually developing, constantly raising concerns and debates, inserting into the golden book of humanity truly spectacular achievements. In the following lines, we will enumerate the characteristics of the Romanian aircraft, depending on the purpose of the mission accomplished.

**F-16 Fighting Falcon.** The F-16 Fighting Falcon is an aircraft whose tactical performance was heavily tested in combat. This multi-role aircraft is a weapon system that covers the entire spectrum of missions. The capabilities of the aircraft, complemented by the tactics developed over time in accordance with the continuous modernization of the initial project, transformed the Falcon from an extremely capable aircraft into a complete combat system. At present, there are 17 multi-role such aircraft in the service of the Romanian Air Force. This acquisition is a major step in increasing the capabilities of the Romanian Armed Forces and represents a transition stage towards the introduction of the 5th generation aircraft in the Romanian Air Force service. The F-16 program not only proves its strategic importance at national level, but also at regional level, strengthening Romania's ability to respond in an appropriate manner to the deterrence and defence requirements specific to the Black Sea region.



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Romanian MiG 21 LanceR Aircraft



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Romanian C 130 Hercules airlift aircraft



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Romanian C 27 J Spartan medium-sized aircraft

**MiG-21 LanceR.** The Romanian Air Force is using the MiG 21 LanceR as one of its main fighters and even though is an old platform, it is still up for the job after a major upgrade performed during the 1990s. This upgrade turned the obsolete platform into a “digital” one

by updating the avionics and armament of the MiG. The program produced three versions of the LanceR: a single seater air-to-ground (the A version), a double seater with air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities (the B version) and a single seater with air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities (the C version).

Transport aircraft carry out airlift missions for the benefit of the Air Force and other elements of the National Defence System, in the national airspace and in crisis or conflict zones, within UN, OSCE or NATO mandated missions, as well as missions in support of local institutions and authorities during civil emergency situations. The following aircraft belong to this category:

**C-130 Hercules** is an impressive, solid and reliable aircraft, intended for tactical support of troops by carrying out logistic support missions, air raid and medical evacuation. This type of aircraft entered the Romanian Air Force’s inventory starting 1996. Having medium and long range airlift capabilities, it has been the main capability of supporting our troops in the theaters of operations, providing assistance during natural disasters situations, both domestic and worldwide.

**Spartan C-27J** is an aircraft designed and built by Alenia Aeronautica, meant to represent a whole generation of medium-sized military aircraft. The C-27J aircraft is a remarkable aircraft with superior maneuverability and tactics. It is intended to carry out tactical missions, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, ensuring air transport directly into the theater of operations, both during the day and at night.

**Antonov An-30** is a member of the An-24 aircraft family, being designed for aerial photography missions. The aircraft has got a metallic structure and is equipped with a wide range of sensors in the visible and infrared spectrum, integrated into the fuselage. The Romanian Air Force is currently using the aircraft for geodesic missions under the “Open Skies” agreement.

## TRAINING AIRCRAFT

**IAK-52.** The aircraft is a monoplane type, entirely metallic, except for the control surfaces. The cabin is arranged with two independent pilot stations, in tandem, the front one being intended for the student. The aircraft has been a Romanian Air Force asset since 1985, now being used as a training aircraft at the “Aurel Vlaicu” Air Force Training School.

**IAR-99 ŞOIM.** The development of this advanced training and light attack aircraft started in the 1970s, being the first reactive aircraft designed and manufactured entirely in Romania. The first prototype conducted the first flight on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1985. IAR-99 is a fully metallic aircraft, simple from a constructive point of view. Three prototypes were built, one of them being used for endurance tests.

Romanian Air Force need helicopters equipped with armament systems for self-defence during missions, able to successfully face the challenges posed by the new types of conflicts. As a result, the rotary wing device must have a wide range of protective equipment and be ready for attack at any time. In addition, aircraft need stability and precision to perform search and rescue missions.

**IAR-316.** Starting with 1971, ICA Brasov manufactured about 250 helicopters under the name of IAR 316 B, both for the Romanian Air Force and for other institutions or external beneficiaries. ICA Brasov, together with other Romanian companies, developed a helicopter weapons program delivered to the Romanian Air Force.

**IAR-330.** In the 1970s, Romania bought the license to build the SA 330 Puma, locally named IAR 330 Puma Helicopter. Initially designed as a medium sized helicopter, the SA330 Puma and the IAR version were transformed into many other different versions exceeding their initial mission. The Romanian Air Force currently employs several versions of the IAR 330 Puma, the most advanced being the SOCAT helicopter gunship. The main mission of the SOCAT is anti-tank warfare but can also perform Close Air Support (CAS), Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Search and Rescue (SAR) and troops and materials transport. The SOCAT program is an upgrade developed in the 1990s by IAR Brasov

and Elbit Systems, which transforms the IAR 330 into a modern, multi-mission, helicopter gunship. The IAR-330 Puma SOCAT helicopter can meet the operational requirements specific to the SAR operations, as it has the avionics that allow pilots to focus on important aspects of the mission.

The Air Force structure includes an Air Operational Component, four Fighter Air Bases, one Surface-to-Air Missile Brigade and one Patriot Regiment. Combat Support Units includes one Air Transport Base, one ISR Brigade and Engineering entities.

Education and Training Units are the Air Force Academy, the Aeronautical Personnel’s Training Base, the Warrant Officer and NCO School, the Military High School and the National Training Center for GBAD, including the AF firing range.



IAK-52

IAR-99 ŞOIM



The main mission of **86<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE BASE** is to defend the airspace in South-Eastern Romania. Starting with September 2016, this unit has been equipped with F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft. This military aviation unit is recognized for the professionalism of military personnel. In July 2019 the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft from the Romanian Air Force began conducting the Air Policing missions, under NATO command.

The missions of **71<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE BASE** are: discovering, identifying and combating illicit acts at the flight regime in the national space; maintaining the integrity of NATO airspace; navigation assistance for military and civilian aircraft; humanitarian actions and search, rescue, evacuation missions in case of natural disasters or disasters, connection and airlift of troops, aerial research of areas or districts, ensuring and maintaining the availability of the infrastructure and utility elements of the airfield.

The **95<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE BASE** dates back more than 90 years, initially under the name of the Aviation Training Center. It has the mission to defend the national airspace, provide support to state institutions and local authorities during emergencies and ensure flight training of pilots.

The **57<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE BASE “MIHAIL KOGĂLNICEANU”** coordinates the aeronautical activities in the area of responsibility, assures the Host Nation’s Support for the armed forces transiting our national territory and represents the interface between the foreign armed forces carrying out activities on the airfield and the locally represented public authorities.

The **90<sup>th</sup> TRANSPORT AIR FORCE BASE** performs air transportation missions for the Romanian Air Force and other elements of the National Defence System, both in the national airspace during crisis or in conflict areas, within ONU, OSCE or NATO mandated missions, as well as missions in support of local institutions and authorities during civil emergency situations.

The **70<sup>th</sup> ENGINEERING CENTER** provides engineering support and EOD to the Air Force units, state institutions or local authorities. The 70<sup>th</sup> Engineering Center participated with personnel and equipment in several engineering support missions in different places.



Romanian F16 Fighting Falcon Aircraft

The **76<sup>th</sup> RESEARCH, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE BRIGADE** was formed by merging and reorganizing several military units, thus, achieving a homogenous and powerful entity. The unit provides the collection, processing and dissemination of information in the Air Force area of responsibility.

The **74<sup>th</sup> PATRIOT REGIMENT** was established on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the day when a new chapter was written in the history of the Romanian Military, especially in the history of the national anti-aircraft defence system. The establishment of the new unit has been an important step in creating the missile capability of the Romanian Armed Forces,



the 74<sup>th</sup> PATRIOT Regiment being the first structure benefitting from the newest configuration of the ground-to-air missile system starting with 2020.

## UNIFORMS AND RANKS

The specific color of the Romanian Air Force equipment is blue-oil. Within the Romanian Air Forces, we find, the following types of uniforms differentiated by categories of personnel: service uniform, combat uniform and mess uniform, the particularity being given by the mess uniform for officers, pilots' flying suit and students' military uniform.

The military ranks specific to the lower ranking officers are identical to those of the other Services, the differences occurring in the category of senior officers, as follows: lieutenant-commander, captain-commander, commander.

## EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING STRUCTURES

A fundamental component of the training and military education, is responsible for the initial training and continuous professional development and represents the most important investment of the Military in the development of its human resource and the increase of the performances of the military structures.

The mission of military education is to train officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers with professional competences in accordance with the requirements and needs of the military structures, corresponding to the specific qualifications of the military occupational specialties (MOS-es), with the potential of becoming creative, innovative personalities, determined to obtain performance and generate value.

The vocational training system in the Ministry of National Defence is structured on educational cycles and levels and includes:

- ✓ pre-academic study programs: high school and post-secondary;
- ✓ academic programs, postgraduate studies.

The education and training units are the Air Force Academy, the Aeronautical Personnel Training Base, the Air Force WO & NCO Military School "Traian Vuia", the National Military College "Mihai Viteazul" and the Air Defence National Training Center.

The training program within the domestic educational process comprises the following main modules: the pre-academic, academic training program, the military training program, the specialized training program with the flight internships and the training program for the assignment into the military aeronautic personnel's first position.

The initial training starts at the desks of the **NATIONAL MILITARY COLLEGE "MIHAI VITEAZUL"**, where the students



Graduation ceremony at  
Air Force Academy

build their destiny under the auspices of the performance. In 2018, the National Military College “Mihai Viteazul” from Alba Iulia was placed into the subordination of the Air Force Staff, changing the red patches on the students’ uniform, with the blue ones. For 100 years, the military college has formed people, characters, destinies and values. It is the place where young people make their way to future military careers. Throughout its existence, the military college has prepared 71 promotions, consisting in more than 7,200 graduates.

The **AIR FORCE ACADEMY “HENRI COANDĂ”** is a higher military education institution, located in Brasov, whose mission is to train the officers licensed in the basic branches of the Air Force. The planning of university scientific education and research within this institution meets both the requirements of the national higher education system and the particularities of military education.

Another institution: the **AERONAUTIC PERSONNEL TRAINING BASE**. After completing the studies of the Air Force Academy, all graduates must attend a basic course of 6 to 12 months at the Aeronautic Personnel Training Base, where they get specialized for their first job. This base carries out educational activities in the accredited fields and specialties.

Another form of training within the military training and education system takes place at the **AIR FORCE WO & NCO MILITARY SCHOOL “TRAIAN VUIA”**. Located in Boboc, it is the only institution that develops WOs and NCOs for the Air Force needs and for other beneficiaries. The school provides a vocational higher education for high school graduates, being part of the national education system. The school develops Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers as specialists in the employment and maintenance of the equipment.

**NATO AIR POLICING** is a type of mission launched in 2014, executed in several countries on the Eastern flank of the Alliance. Within the Alliance, preserving airspace integrity is conducted as a collective task using aircraft for Air Policing, as a purely defensive mission. Allies have increased the efficiency of this mission by sending their interceptors and requiring support in Romania to perform extended Air Policing tasks within the framework of the Readiness Action Plan. The missions have been conducted in a safe and highly professional manner.

Romania provides crucial support to NATO’s enhanced vigilance on the Eastern flank. Romania has been hosting Allied fighter detachments since 2014, when the Alliance started flying enhanced Air Policing Sorties out of Romanian air bases. Ever since 2014 considering the present geopolitical situation –

Romanian Air Force fighter aircraft have been securing Allied skies alongside British, Canadian, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and United States jets.

In July 2022, more than 20 aircrafts from seven NATO member states, as well as air surveillance and ground-based defence systems, participated in a joint exercise of enhanced vigilance activities (eVA) led by the Allied Air Command (NATO AIRCOM) from Germany.

The exercise, organized in accordance with the international legislation and standards in force,

simulated the removal of air defence combat of a potential adversary with the aid of combat, air refueling and early warning aircraft, directed by controllers in the final integrated attack area (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers –JTAC).

The purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate NATO's ability to plan, coordinate and execute a complex, multinational mission in order to secure the Alliance's airspace in the event of any type of threat or attack on allied territory. F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft of the 86<sup>th</sup> Airbase took part in this exercise.

From June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 to June 19<sup>th</sup> 2019, the Romanian Air Force supported the UN in assisting the Government of the Republic of Mali to continue implementing the Peace Agreement, protecting civilians and preventing the return of hostile armed elements of the agreement in populated areas, within the United Nation Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

The Romanian detachment assigned to the mission consists of approximately 120 military personnel (pilots, technical and medical personnel) and four IAR-330 Puma LRM helicopters. The Romanian detachment performed MEDEVAC / CASEVAC missions, search & rescue missions, troop and material transport, passenger transport, VIP transport, air patrol, observation.

Romanian IAR 330 PUMA SOCAT helicopter in Mali



“As if you gazed  
at an angel...”

## THE GIRLS FROM THE WHITE SQUADRON

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During the Second World War, there was a medical squadron made up of female personnel within the Military Aeronautics. Its role was picking up the injured soldiers from the battlefield front line and carrying them to the hospitals behind.

The idea of using female aviators to carry out missions in support of the Military was quite new in Romania. Only in 1938, five women who were licenced pilots were invited to take part in the Autumn Manoeuvres: Irina Burnaia, Marina Știrbey, Mariana Drăgescu, Virginia Duțescu and Nadia Russo. For a few days, they flew over the manoeuvres' field and confirmed they could accomplish transport and liaison missions.

Two years later, upon Princess Stirbey's proposal, the Ministry of War established a Medical Squadron within the civilian aviation, with the headquarters at Băneasa Airport. Among the aircraft of this aviation unit, two were *Monospar* twin-engine planes and three were *RWD-13* single-engine ones equipped to airlift the wounded personnel (one laying on a stretcher and one standing on a seat).

From the beginning, among the members of this squadron, four women-aviators were employed: Mariana Drăgescu, Nadia Russo, Virginia Duțescu and Virginia Thomas. They were the ones who opened a new path: the possibility for the women to build a career in the Romanian Aviation.

There were also four volunteers who had been training to fly on the *Monospar* twin-engine airplane (Victoria Comșa, Jeana Iliescu, Maria Adam and Maria Voitec). Sadly, they lost their lives following an awful tragedy. On the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1940, one of the two twin-engine aircraft of Băneasa squadron crashed during a training flight. The four girls and one of the most experienced flight instructors of the Romanian Aviation, with over 6,300 flight hours, Flight Sergeant-Major Nicolae Evghenovici, lost their lives.

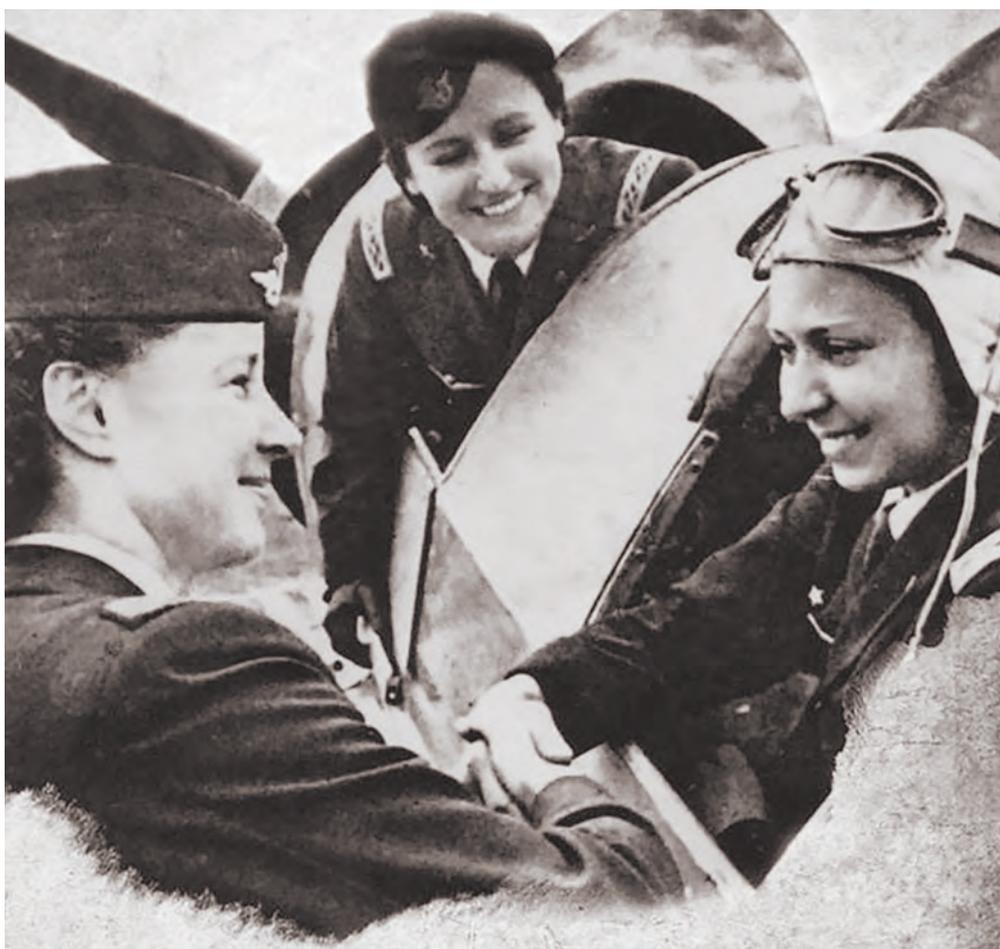
The deaths of the four young aviators proved to be the only blood tribute ever given by the girls of the Medical Squadron. Over the four remaining years of war, the lives of the remaining four (and more to come in 1942) were endangered many times, but fortunately, without irreparable consequences.

For the Romanians, the war started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1941. It was one of the decisive days of World War II. From the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, a few million soldiers of the Axis attacked the Soviet Union. The Romanian soldiers liberated the Northern part of Bucovina and Bessarabia occupied by the Soviets in the summer of 1940 and, after that, crossed over the Dniester.

Many of them lost their lives or were wounded in the bloody battle for the conquest of Odessa.

Some of the wounded received the aid of the Medical Squadron which, unofficially, became known as the *White Squadron*, because their airplanes were painted in white. The men and women aviators of this aviation unit were the ones who brought them from the forward medical outposts to the battlefield hospitals or to the home country ones.

Next to the battlefield front line, several *Air-triage* stations were made, equipped with surgical and sheltering facilities upon waiting boarding and small mess halls (either their own or belonging to the Red Cross). The doctors gave first aid and then established who flew and in which order. The wounded soldiers were embarked and the aircraft would take off. The girls wore the specific Romanian Military Aeronautics grey-blue uniforms, except for Nadia Russo who, in most of the photographs, is shown wearing a white flight suit. It is important to mention the fact that the four aviators were granted the rank of Flight Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> class, which equates the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, unlike those who came afterwards, starting 1942,



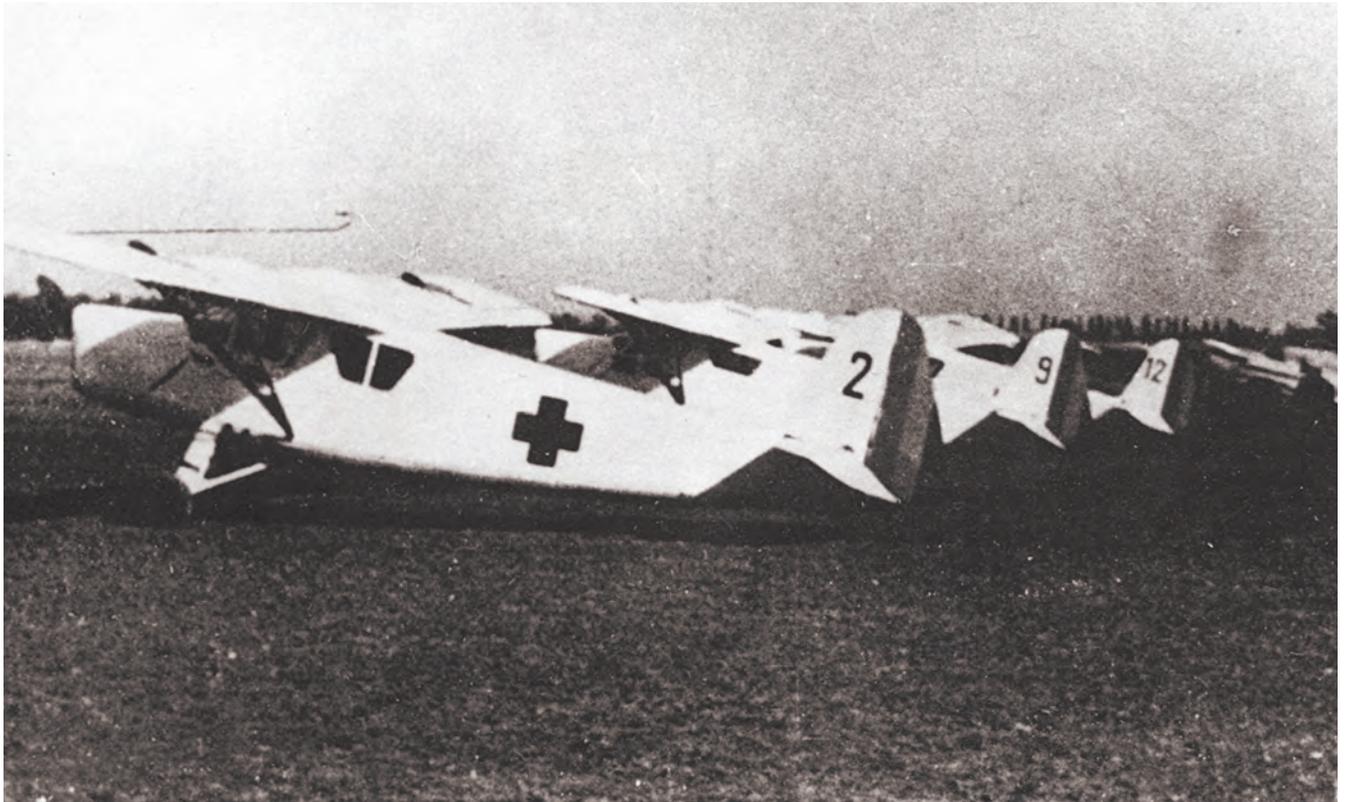
Nadia Russo and Mariana Drăgescu (with flying helmets) shaking hands, accompanied by the smile of Virginia Duțescu

who were all volunteers (Victoria Pokol, Stela Huțan, Smaranda Brăescu, Maria Nicolae).

Marked by the tragical experience of the war, Nadia left a series of memories. She would have wanted to publish them in 1943, under the title "In the Run of the White Wings". Unfortunately, most of the pages were lost. Only a few were published in the *Romanian Aviation* magazine, in January 1943. The atmosphere which she portrays to the reader is a bleak one: dying wounded soldiers, her fighting comrades who left on missions and did not come back, technical problems that strained everyone both physically and mentally, the LARES airplanes which brought ammunition, mail, thick clothing and left full of injured people... The girls



Mariana Drăgescu, Stela Huțan and Smaranda Brăescu in 1942, on the Stalingrad battlefield



.....  
The White Squadron Aircraft

asked the LARES pilots to bring them soap, post cards, films for their cameras...

The Medical Squadron followed the battlefield front line. Bessarabia, Odessa, Crimea, Stalingrad... Thanks to several reporters from that time, we now have the figures today: in 1941 over 5,300 wounded personnel were evacuated by air and in 1942 over 4,000, out of which 700 or 800 were German military personnel.

After the Odessa and Stalingrad battles, the girls were temporarily sent to their home country. In the first months of 1943, they undertook a nursing course at the "Queen Elisabeth" Military Hospital, so that, in case of a crash landing, they could provide competent care to the injured personnel. The course was taken on volunteer basis and lasted 45 days.

The only one who took part in the war from 1941 up until 1945 was Mariana Drăgescu. In 1943, she had over 800 flight hours, out of which more than half were made on the battlefield.

She evacuated hundreds of wounded. Somebody wrote about her: "I saw one of them (the wounded personnel, authors note), on Băneasa Airfield, while he was being moved from the airplane that had just landed into an ambulance belonging to the Red

Cross, driven by the wife of a distinguished university professor. She was looking at Mariana as if you would gaze at an angel. Maybe he, as many others, knew only her first name, that first name so many times uttered with gratitude by the Romanian and German soldiers."

.....  
Nadia Russo, Mariana Drăgescu and  
Virginia Thomas at Băneasa



The press published other earth-shattering testimonies. Romanian Aviation, the Autumn of 1943 issue, presents two letters sent by Mariana Drăgescu to her mother from the battlefield.

“Yesterday, I had a young and pretty German NCO, heavily injured at the head, eyes and stomach. Between Karasubazar and Simferopol he started to hiccup. He was unconscious when I embarked him into the airplane. Towards 6 p.m. darkness started to settle, Simferopol was nowhere in sight and the poor boy was agonising. I landed at night at flare light and rolled towards the tents. He opened his remaining eye, hiccupped again and, by the time I stopped the engine, he perished, too. Noticing that that painstaking hiccup stopped, I leaned next to his cheek. I couldn't feel his breath. I lifted his eyelid. The eye was fixed. I called for the doctor. He told me: It's over! Then, the soldiers took the stretcher down and, before climbing him into the truck, stood a few moments in silence around him. They were impressed, too. They took him away. His name was Gerd and was 22 years old...”

“In this sector, my first flight was done at great distress: being unconscious, the wounded man tore his head bandage, remaining with a deep hole in the forehead. Luckily, the plane hadn't taken off yet. I bandaged him and tied his hands with a rope. During the flight, he got his legs loose, which had also been fastened to the stretcher, and started hitting the wounded man in the rear, who screamed of desperation. The latter, with his only one good hand, managed to grab the end of the rope which tied the furious wounded man's hands, holding on strongly, and immobilising his legs with one of his own. It was a terrible struggle to which I watched terrified, so that he would not escape and come at me. Very hard, tired, he fell asleep. Only I know what I had been through...”



.....  
Nadia Russo, Mariana Drăgescu and Virginia Thomas at Băneasa

# ROMANIAN NAVY, tradition since 1860

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Training ship "Mircea"



Romanian Navy Forces continued to be an active contributor to the regional security and stability, as part of the different regional cooperation initiatives conducted within the Extended Black Sea Region.

In order to provide for the freedom of navigation on the Black Sea and Danube River, the Romanian Naval Forces are able to fulfil the following missions and tasks: evacuate the Romanian citizens from conflict areas around the world, participate in regional cooperation initiatives, support the national governmental organizations in case of natural disaster and conduct search and rescue operations at sea and on the river.

## STRUCTURE, AT A GLANCE

In order to accomplish the assigned missions and tasks, Romanian Naval Forces are organized on a four-pillar structure. The first pillar comprises the combat assets, representing the backbone of our Naval Forces, which are the Fleet, the River Flotilla and their combat ships squadrons, as well as the combat support units. The second pillar consists of specialized structures, directly subordinated to the Naval Forces Staff. The third pillar is represented by the Logistic component, with the Naval Logistics Base and other support units. Last, but not least, is the Naval Education, including its latest facility: the Navy High School, re-established after 20 years, providing an outstanding opportunity for our youngsters to join the Romanian Navy at a very early age, and also the Naval Academy, Petty Officers' School and Naval Training School.

There are 9,000 personnel within the Romanian Navy, assigned in more than 40 military units. The Maritime Fleet has almost 20 warships, three frigates (02 Type 22R, ex-Royal Navy Type 22 Batch 2, and 01 Romanian project, "Mărășești"), four "Tetal" class corvettes, three "Tarantul" class missile corvettes, three "Epitrop" class torpedo boats, one "Corsar" class minelayer, four "Musca" class minesweepers, one frigate support ship and three harbour tugs. In addition, The Maritime Fleet has four Mobile Launching Installations and three Puma Naval Helicopters IAR 330, which operate with the frigates.

The second combat asset is the Riverine Flotilla, which consists of three "Mihail Kogalniceanu" class river monitors, five "Brutar" riverine patrol monitors, twelve "VD 141" class river patrol minesweepers, and a Marines Regiment with many amphibious "TABC-79" and "TAB-71M" and riverine fast boats.



Graduation ceremony at  
Military Naval Academy

Our Navy has one support ship for divers, one oceanographic research ship, one tactical transport ship, three fleet oilers which offer logistics support and tall ship "Mircea", "The Jewel" of Romanian Navy, built in Hamburg, in 1939, used for training purposes.

## NAVY AND NATO BEGIN WITH THE SAME LETTER, "N", FROM NEWS

Romania will continue to contribute effectively, in accordance with the principles of solidarity, the indivisibility of the security of NATO members and the fair burden sharing. Collective defence,



Rising flag ceremony on  
"Regina Maria" Frigate



Romanian  
marines  
during water  
combat  
exercise

Romanian Naval Forces has designated one frigate, two corvettes, one EOD group, two Minesweepers and one Minelayer, 2 minesweepers and a significant number of staff officers in the C2 NRF structure.

The Romanian Naval Forces staff fulfilled all the planned missions during 2021, both nationally and within the allied framework, the most important mission being the participation of the "Vice Admiral

Constantin Bălescu" Minelayer in the European Union Operation EUNAVFOR MED "Irinii", carried out for a period of three months, in the Mediterranean Sea. Other important missions, successfully fulfilled by the Navy personnel, in the context of applying all required measures against the spread of SARS CoV-2 virus infection to the ships' crew, were: participation with "Regina Maria" Frigate, along with the command assurance of the naval group, in the NATO SEA GUARDIAN Operation in the Mediterranean Sea, participation of "Lieutenant Lupu Dinescu" Maritime Minesweeper and "Regina Maria" Frigate in all deployments of NATO's Permanent Naval Groups into the Black Sea and the participation of "Regina Maria" Frigate in the deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. Through our professionalism, we contribute to the consolidation of Romania's efforts to gett actively involved in maintaining the security and trust climate in the Black Sea region.

Our participation in NATO operations and missions conducted in the Mediterranean Sea, Afghanistan, or in support of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and the Western Balkan partner countries, represent arguments that Romania has fulfilled without hesitation its commitments undertaken within NATO.

## THE MOST IMPORTANT TREASURE FOR ROMANIAN NAVY, THE HUMAN RESOURCE

Through missions professionally performed by its personnel, Romania is recognized as a credible partner in the Allied and International community. The appreciation received by the Romanian service members, from the North-Atlantic Alliance, with respect to the Navy, is a proof that the Romanian Navy know how to capitalize on one of its most important resources in the field of security, namely the human resource.

Our educational and training system is made of four institutions, such as "Mircea



.....  
Military parade at “Mircea cel Bătrân”  
Naval Academy

cel Bătrân” Naval Academy (MBNA), “Admiral Ion Murgescu” Naval Petty Officers School (NPOS), “Vice Admiral Constantin Bălescu”, Navy Training School and “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” National Military College. The MBNA is a polytechnic higher education establishment that provides education and training to the engineer-officers of the Romanian Navy, Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine by conferring the bachelor and master degrees. Due to its academic vocation, MBNA is pursuing research and development programmes in the field of naval engineering, marine engineering, naval logistics and management. MBNA comprises two faculties: Navigation and Naval Management Faculty and Marine Engineering Faculty, where the military cadets are enrolled.

For the Romanian Naval Forces, the investment in education represents both an anchor of stability in the national education system, and an important factual investment in the future of our institution. At “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy, for the first time, alongside the Romanian military students, international military cadets from Bulgaria, Lithuania and Poland carried out their studies for one semester in the Navy’s higher educational institution, during academic year 2021-2022, as part of the Erasmus+ and EMILYO programs. Starting from 2022-2023

academic year, another important achievement of the Navy higher educational system was the English-language taught study program “Navigation, Hydrography and Naval Equipment”, with where 30 seats, out of which 15 are foreigners.

The Naval Petty Officers School provides scientific training at post high-school level, trains technicians and work managers skilled to maintain, repair and operate systems and subsystems. Training in nine specialities is provided, as follows: Steering and navigation equipment; Naval gunnery; Naval missiles; Underwater weapons; Radio communications and naval observation and signalling; Naval radars; Electronic underwater equipment; Naval engines and auxiliary machines; Naval electrical engines and equipment. The training lasts two years, and it provides the Petty Officers with a high sense of duty, integrity and loyalty for the Naval Forces.

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” National Military College prepares students for the military lifestyle and for the entrance examination into the higher educational military institutions. The military college is integrated into the national system of education, and has two specializations: Mathematics and Computer Science.

Romanian “Regina Maria”  
Frigate at “Sea Guardian”  
Operation



Last, but not the least, there is “Vice admiral Constantin Bălescu” Navy Training School, which provides training to the junior officers and enlisted personnel, throughout their career in the Romanian Navy, by means of programs and courses specially tailored to suit the needs of the Navy, in accordance with national educational policies and Euro-Atlantic commitments, in order to assure a continuous

Romanian diving during  
“Sea Guardian” Operation



long-life learning process required by nowadays standards.

### ROMANIAN NAVY AT SEA, UNDERWATER, ON LAND AND IN AIR. MISSIONS AND EXERCISES

There are more than 30 exercises per year, which aim to train and develop the skills of the Romanian Navy personnel. The Romanian Naval Forces participated with its allies in the “Sea Guardian” Operation in the Mediterranean, in the NATO Permanent Naval Groups, twice in the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG-2) and three times in the Standing NATO Maritime Counter Measures Group 2 (SNMCMG-2), during their deployment to the Black Sea.

In 2021, the Romanian Naval Forces conducted four major exercises with international participation: MCM “Poseidon”, “Sea Shield”, “EP MCM Dive” and “Riverine”, in order to increase the level of interoperability within the allied forces, together with the NATO member and partner states. A large, joint-level exercise, organized on Romanian territory was “Saber Guardian”, in which the Naval Forces participated with maritime and riverine capabilities, divers and marines.

Also, in 2021 training year, the Romanian Naval Forces participated in other important international exercises: “Breeze” conducted in Bulgaria, “Sea Breeze” conducted in Ukraine, “Dogu Akdeniz” conducted in Turkey; “Ariadne” and “Niriis” conducted in Greece and “Triton” Exercise conducted in Bulgaria.

Thus, crews, companies or strong echelons of the Fleet, the Riverine Flotilla, Navy Helicopters, Marines or Navy Special Operations Forces have been deployed into The Mediterranean and The Black Sea, as well as to Afghanistan, Kosovo or African UN or NATO Theatres of Operations. As a result, the participation of the Romanian Naval Forces’ personnel in various operations and exercises proved to be a very useful tool within the overall training of our forces.

The Romanian Naval Forces, acting independently or within the Alliance, are capable, ready and adaptable to participate in the Alliance’s entire spectrum of actions conducted to discourage hostile actions and defend national or Allied territory. In today’s unpredictable security environment, the Romanian Navy demonstrates determination and responsiveness, in order to ensure citizens that it has the ability to protect them from external threats.

In 2019, the Romanian Naval Forces conducted five major exercises with international participation: MCM “Poseidon”, “Sea Shield”, “EP MCM Dive”, “Riverine” and “Fall Storm”, in order to increase the level of interoperability within the allied forces,

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Romanian IAR 330 PUMA  
NAVAL helicopter

# **THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES**

**in missions and operations  
abroad has been reconfigured**

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Over the past 31 years, Romania has made major efforts to gain the status of responsible and reliable member of the international community and to become a security provider both at regional and continental or global levels and the main effort in achieving this objective was made by the Romanian Armed Forces. Participating in missions and operations outside the territory of the Romanian state began in 1991, with the United Nations led mission UNIKOM in Kuwait, following the Gulf War developments.

In time, our participation in international missions has constantly increased and it goes without saying that our involvement with more than 32,000 soldiers, for a 19 years, period in the theaters of operations from Afghanistan, was the most significant one.

After the end of the war in Afghanistan, Romanian Armed Forces extended their participation to the already existing missions, by increasing both the number of troops as well as the number of locations where the military personnel were deployed around the globe, according to the international requests and security needs.

As the operations from the Western Balkans are a priority in terms of strategic proximity and commitments undertaken within NATO and EU, Romania augmented its contribution to EUFOR ALTHEA Mission by supplementing their troops with a mechanized infantry platoon, starting with January 2022. This additional contribution came as an explicit request from the EUFOR ALTHEA to have a platoon equipped with armoured combat vehicles in order to increase the force protection of the Multinational Battalion during the conduct of the missions.

Furthermore, following the evolution of the security situation, the Romanian Armed Forces further increased their permanent contribution to EUFOR ALTHEA by one maneuver company. The platoon and the maneuver company added up to the Romanian staff personnel who had already been conducting missions in the theater of operations from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The decision to augment Romania's contribution was taken following the request made by EUFOR ALTHEA's leadership. Romania's participation in Operation EUFOR ALTHEA reflects the consolidation of its commitment assumed within the EU and the NATO EU partnership, representing, at the same time, an element to maintain security and stability in the region.

Currently, the Romanian military is participating in NATO and EU-led missions in the Balkan theatres of operations with 279 soldiers, 65 out of which in KFOR mission and 214 in UE EUFOR ALTHEA mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

.....  
Romanian serviceman in  
Kandahar, Afghanistan



Pluton Bosnia

As NATO's battlegroups are part of the biggest reinforcement of NATO's collective defence, the Romanian Armed Forces have continued their participation since 2017 with an air defence detachment in the enhanced Forward Presence mission from the North Eastern Flank of the Alliance, as part of the NATO Battle Group from Poland led by the United States of America, according to the decision assumed by Romania after the Warsaw NATO Summit. The Romanian air defence detachments are equipped with Gepard mobile systems, 12 detachments having been deployed by now.

In addition to the above mentioned contributions, not only that Romania maintained the staff personnel and instructors assigned to the EU led missions in the Mediterranean Sea, Georgia, The Central African Republic, Somalia and Mali but, following the EU Council's decision in launching the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mozambique in January 2022, Romania deployed a team of six staff personnel in this mission, too.

As NATO Defence Ministers decided to expand the NATO training mission, following the request of the Iraqi government, Romania has also been participating since the beginning of 2022, with a team of 7 staff personnel who conduct advisory and training activities.

Constant attention was also continuously paid to the UN missions. Therefore, Romania currently participates in Congo, Kosovo, India and Pakistan, South Sudan, and Mali with 22 observers, staff and liaison personnel.

As far as the air domain is concerned, in the autumn of 2021, NATO launched Operation Allied Solace to assist with the resettlement of NATO affiliated Afghans and their families. Allied troops from the NATO Response Force helped relocate evacuees to temporary staging areas in Germany, Poland and Kosovo, and resettle in several Allied countries. Romanian Air Forces participated with a C27 J Spartan aircraft until the end of the mission, 31st March 2022, by executing a total of 38 sorties.

At sea, shortly after the end of the mission in Afghanistan, for the first time, Romania ensured the command of the NATO Operation "Sea

Guardian” which stands for the recognition of the professionalism of the Romanian military personnel by the Alliance as well as our country’s quality as security provider and stability in the Mediterranean Basin.

Exerting the command of this important naval standing group restated and strengthened the prestige of the Romanian Naval Forces, the professionalism of the Romanian military sailors and contributed to the reassertion of our country as a security provider and stability pillar in the extended region of the Black Sea and Mediterranean Basin.

Romanian Naval Forces were also scheduled to participate in 2022, within the Standing NATO Naval Groups (SNMG2 and SNMCMG2) with a frigate for up to 120 days and with a minesweeper for up to 90 days. In addition to these, the naval forces were planned to participate with a frigate in the maritime Operation Sea Guardian within for 30 days as well was with a frigate in Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, for up to 30 days, too.

The Romanian minelayer “Viceamiral Constantin Balescu” came back home after a three months participation in Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, at the beginning of year 2022.

However, the outbreak of the Russian invasion in Ukraine led to a swift change in maritime missions for the Black Sea countries, urging them to focus with priority on maritime situational awareness within the Black Sea region as the main area of responsibility rather than contributing with naval presence outside the Black Sea, in the Mediterranean.



.....  
C 27 J Spartan 1

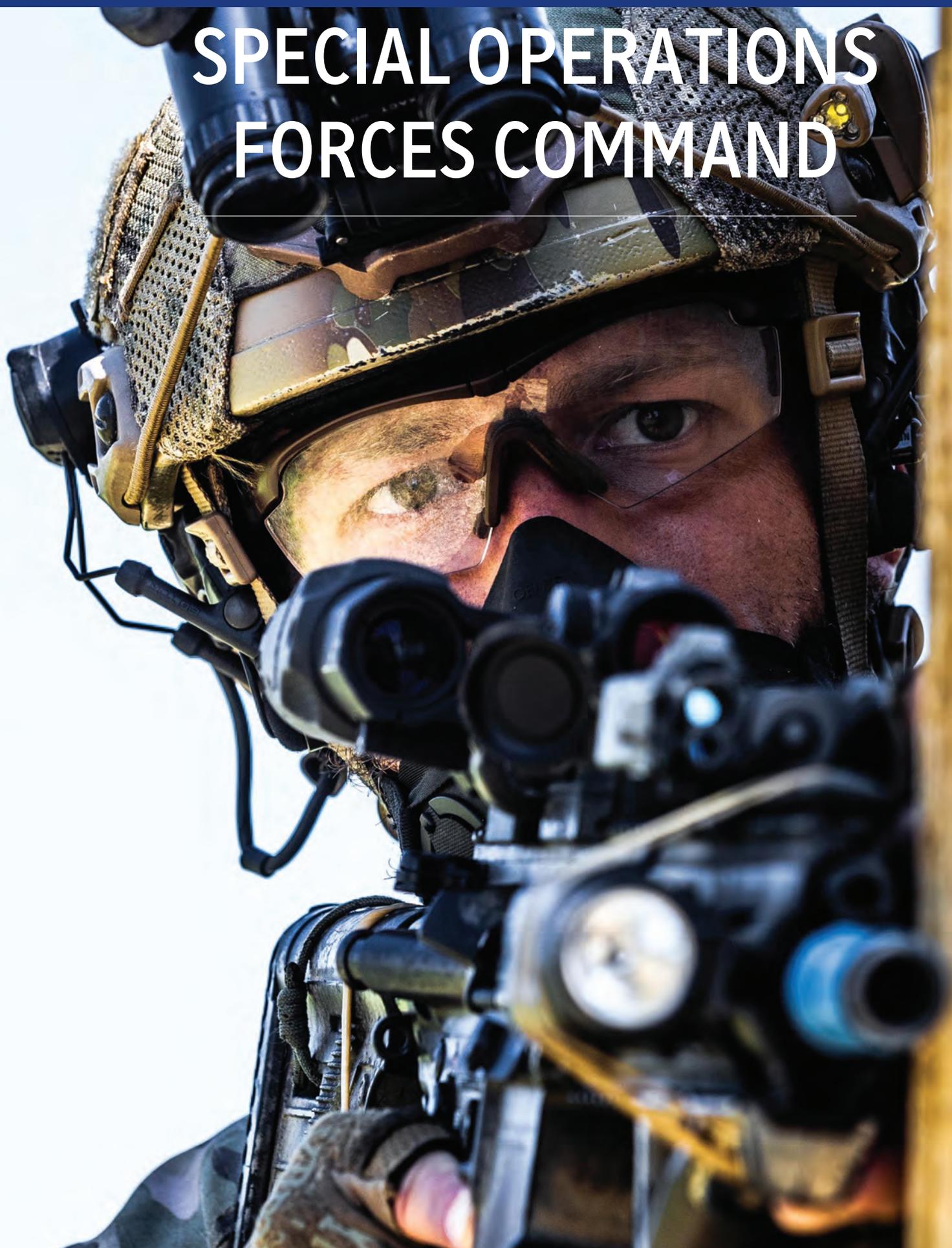
274 Minelayer  
.....



As for the future, Romania will maintain its international troop contribution in the air, land and sea fields wherever is needed, in compliance with the constant review of the mission requirements.

***The Romanian Armed Forces’ participation in NATO, EU and UN-led missions has given the Romanian state the opportunity to shape its conduct according to given external circumstances, so as to gain and preserve its status of credible actor and security provider in the international area.***

# SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES COMMAND



Romanian Special Operations Forces Command (SOFCOM) was established in March 2018, and stands for the structure that trains and generates the specialized quick reaction component at strategic level, with land, air and naval structures dedicated, trained and equipped for the execution of the special reconnaissance missions, military assistance and unconventional warfare as well as its complementary missions on Romanian territory and abroad, independently or together with the special forces of the coalitions and the alliances Romania is part of.

**T**he first specialized structure of such kind has been operational in our country since 2003, when the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Battalion “Eagles” was created in Târgu Mureş under the ROU Land Forces administrative control (ADMINCON).

In 2009, SOF began rendering operational the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Regiment by subordinating and further transforming the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Battalion “Eagles”, the 60<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Battalion “Băneasa-Otopeni” Buzău, and 498<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Battalion “Smaranda Brăescu” Bacău.

After its establishment, the SOFCOM took the 164<sup>th</sup> Naval Special Operations Forces Squadron (elite SOF unit of the Romanian Navy which was established in April 2006, in Constanta) under OPCOM.

The ROU SOF School was established in June 2018, in Vlădeni, Braşov. Thus, the Romanian Armed Forces implemented a project to organize and conduct a Special Forces qualification course on the Romanian territory, similar to the initial training required for the access to the US “green berets”.

## CURRENT STRUCTURE OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES COMMAND

SOF team members work closely together and rely on each other for long periods of time, both during deployments and within the garrison. Due to this fact, they develop close relationships and personal ties which foster a team cohesion and esprit de corps which is rarely found elsewhere in the army.

SOF operators are trained to use all types of light and heavy weapons, such as assault rifles, pistols, machineguns and sniper systems. A SOF team trains to achieve high marksmanship skills in order to be able to use the organic weapons for the entire range of operations.

The main vehicle of Romanian SOF teams is the HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle), a lightweight, highly mobile, four-wheel-drive tactical vehicle that uses a common chassis to carry a wide variety of military equipment. It must perform on various types of terrain, from desert to jungle, for long periods of time,



Special Operations Forces operators during a parachute exercise

with minimal maintenance. It has to carry its cargo and occupants safely while dodging instruments of war-bullets, bombs and mines.

But as the HMMWV is getting old, the ROU SOFCOM searched for alternatives. Next year the SOF units in Romania will be equipped with brand new JLTVs (Joint Light Tactical Vehicles) produced by Oshkosh Defence, the global leader in the manufacturing and sustainment of military vehicles and mobility systems. This delivery represents a serious step forward in the process of modernization and equipping of the ROU SOF, alongside other critical weapons and military systems ongoing acquisition programs .

## THE 51<sup>ST</sup> SOF BATTALION “EAGLES”

The 1<sup>st</sup> SOF Bn “Vulturii”, nowadays 51<sup>st</sup> SOF Bn “Vulturi”, was established on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2003. The battalion became operational in late 2005, after having selected several batches of graduates. Members of the SOF battalion have benefitted from courses abroad, such as the US Army Special Forces Course, the Force Recon Course, as well as other courses.

The US Army Special Forces also sent several instructors who were stationed in Romania for periods of up to 6 months.

As a consequence of the Russian invasion in Ukraine, NATO decided to strengthen the Alliance Eastern flank, and part of this effort was focused on the Special Operations Forces/SOF activities. Romanian SOF were already committed to the process of solidifying their position as a regional SOF node. Allies responded quickly and Portugal was one of the countries that agreed to rapidly deploy SOF elements to Romania in order to support Romania’s defence and deterrence posture.

A tactical Portuguese Army SOF element arrived in Romania in May 2022. Integration was quick and the Combined Romanian-Portuguese SOF detachment started a 4-month training phase intended to increase interoperability. Ranging from live firing individual weapons, tactical combat casualty care and communications up to airborne operations, the training was demanding but very beneficial to both teams.

The resolute Portuguese SOF commitment continued after the initial 4 months and a rotation of another Army SOF detachment took place at the beginning of September 2022.

## THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SOF BATTALION “BĂNEASA-OTOPENI”

Formerly known as 60<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Battalion “Băneasa-Otopeni”, the unit was the main airborne force within the Romanian Land Forces, able to deploy, insert, fight, win and deploy on short notice. Its legacy began in 1941, being the first paratrooper battalion in the Romanian military and its combat power was proved during the heroic battles of World War II in Bucharest. The unit began a transformation process and became a SOF designed battalion in 2011.

Currently known as the 52<sup>nd</sup> Special Operations Battalion with the headquarters located in Buzau city, the unit participated in coalition-led combat and peace-keeping

operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Iraq. The unit was exposed to a wide area of international engagements, conducting many Joint Combined Exchange Trainings ( JCET) and exercises with the ‘tip of the spear’ counterparts from across the world.

### THE 53<sup>RD</sup> COMMANDO BATTALION “SMARANDA BRĂESCU”

Formerly known as 498<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Battalion, is the first paratrooper-commando unit in the Romanian Armed Forces. Established on 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1990 and located in Bacău, it was previously subordinated to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The battalion was part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Brigade (HQ Bacau), which was disbanded in 2005 due to a reorganization program of the Romanian Land Forces. In 2011, the 498<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Battalion was renamed 630<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Battalion “Smaranda Brăescu” and subordinated to the 6<sup>th</sup> SOF Brigade.

In 2018, the unit’s name was changed to 53<sup>rd</sup> Commando Battalion “Smaranda Brăescu” and was directly subordinated to the Special Operations Forces Command.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Commando Battalion capabilities and interoperability level are tested and increased during national, multinational exercises and deployments in different theaters of operations.

### THE 54<sup>TH</sup> SUPPORT BATTALION “HORIA CLOȘCA ȘI CRIȘAN”

The first Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) subordinated to the 6<sup>th</sup> SOF Brigade was established on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011, in Targu Mures. This unit was transformed into the 640<sup>th</sup> CSS Battalion two years later, and in 2015 received the honorary name “Horea, Cloșca și Crișan”. Since 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018, the 640<sup>th</sup> CSS Battalion became the 54<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion (54<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion „HCC”), and was redesigned to perform combat support and combat service support missions for the ROU SOFCOM and its subordinate units.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion “HCC” participated in the main training events during 2022: timely & multifunctional support for the ROU SOCC, paratrooper training, EOD exercises and several



Training of Special Operations Forces operators under specific conditions

Special Operations cadets during initial training



Special forces operators from the Romanian Naval Forces during an exercise held in Constanța Military Port



Special Operations  
Forces Operators

STXs & FTXs. The unit also provides 2<sup>nd</sup> line logistic support and performs acquisition processes on behalf of SOFCOM and its force structure, and performs baseline activities and current operations (BACO) at Targu Mures garrison level.

## THE 164<sup>TH</sup> NAVY SOF SQUADRON

The Naval Special Operations Forces Squadron, the Romanian equivalent of Navy SEAL, has its roots from a naval reconnaissance divers detachment belonging to 39<sup>th</sup> Diving Center subordinated to the ROU Naval Forces Staff, with its headquarters in Constanta Military Harbor, onboard of a Navy ship.

Due to the necessity of having a multi-tasking force, able to conduct special operation missions in all environments, especially in the maritime one, the structure underwent multiple evolutions and changes. In 2004, it became 1<sup>st</sup> Naval SOF Detachment, and in 2006, the unit increased in size was renamed the 1<sup>st</sup> Naval SOF Group, being a company level with 3 SOF Detachments. The unit became fully operational in 2007 and was certified to conduct Maritime Patrol operations.

Starting with 2009, the unit has been constantly deployed to theatres of operations, both on land and at sea onboard of ROU Naval Forces Frigates as a SOF capability and force multiplier.

In 2014, the unit became a Battalion with 3 Naval SOF Groups, and in 2017 it became the 164<sup>th</sup> Naval Special Operations Squadron, with a headquarters, 2 SOF Groups, a Combat Support Group that includes a Special Boat Group and a Combat Service Support unit to ensure logistics assistance.

In 2018, after the establishment of Romanian Special Operations Forces Command, the 164<sup>th</sup> Naval Special Operations Squadron was placed under SOCOM Operational Command and started the relocation process to its own base, to Mangalia, which was completed in 2021.

In October 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Maritime Group, generated by 164<sup>th</sup> Naval SOF Squadron, was certified “Combat ready” to conduct direct actions, special reconnaissance missions and provide military assistance, being able to deploy abroad under NATO OPCON, independently or together with the special forces of the coalitions and the alliances Romania is part of.

From 2006 to 2022, the unit has continuously developed, trained and equipped in order to achieve maritime SOF capabilities, having US SEALS advisors alongside.

The unit is constantly participating in national, multinational exercises and deployments to different theaters of operations demonstrating SOF capabilities, their intra and inter-agency interoperability, being a force multiplier for the conventional forces, especially at sea.

## SOF SCHOOL

The Romanian Joint Special Operations Forces Training School is designated to act as a dedicated structure that provides initial training and further development specialization for the personnel within the Romanian SOF community, through a various array of courses and training programs.

The school was established in the center of Romania on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2018, within a challenging physical environment, being directly subordinated to the ROU SOFCOM. At the beginning of 2020, the school received the honorific name “BUREBISTA”, one of the bravest Romanian ancestors. In March 2021, the school was reorganized and placed under the subordination of the newly created Naval Special Operations Training Centre.

The training & education system is designed to create specialists characterized by maturity, the ability to take critical decisions under pressure, pragmatism, flexible thinking and the ability to comprehend various cultures and human societies.

The courses and training programs endeavours to remain relevant and focused on the SOF units' needs. In this respect, JSOFTS employs quite a vast array of teaching techniques delivered by instructors with various backgrounds.

Throughout its short history, the school has been a crossroads for more than 800 SOF personnel and strives to continue supporting the Romanian SOF community in the years to follow. “EXPERIENTIA DOCET” (TEACHING THROUGH EXPERIENCE) is the school's motto and expresses the practicality as a main feature of the training activities.

Exercise **TROJAN FOOTPRINT 22** began on May 2 and was concluded on May 13, with ROU SOF



Operators from the Special Operations Forces before parachuting

working and training together with the NATO allies and European partners across the Black Sea Region to demonstrate their collective military readiness in deploying and responding to any crisis that may arise.

This year's TFP included more than 3,300 participants from 30 nations, doubling in size from the previous year and making it the largest SOCEUR exercise up to date. Land, air and sea operations for Trojan Footprint 22 were conducted across Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Exercise **JUNCTION STRIKE 22** was the most important multinational and inter-institutional exercise planned and conducted yearly by the ROU SOFCOM, based on a fictional scenario associated to hybrid warfare. This year, Exercise **JUNCTION STRIKE 22** took place simultaneously with Trojan Footprint 22.

Combined training events enable our SOF to maintain its readiness and interoperability at high levels, as a critical deterrent military capability.

Most importantly, this type of exercises fortifies military readiness, cultivates trust, and develops long-lasting relationships which promote peace and stability throughout Europe. The purpose of this annual exercise is to demonstrate proficiency, assess the readiness and lethality of our forces, and to continue increasing interoperability with our allies and partners.

# 80 years of excellence in providing CIS to **THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES**

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**F**or over 149 years, from 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1873, the Signal Branch served the Romanian Armed Forces actions like a true nervous system, ensuring fast and protected transmission of the information needed in order to support the missions during peace time, crisis and war, using the electromagnetic waves, from a simple soldier to the complexity of the strategic command posts, and further from individual weapon systems to ultra-technological weapon systems.

Through the dark ages of the Romanian military history, the Signal branch appeared as a necessity to create the communications system for the command posts of the armed force during the Independence War campaigns, as a battalion-level structure within the Engineer branch, evolving within the structure of the Romanian Armed Forces as a distinct specialty in the two World Wars. The branch was established in July 1942, when the Signal Command (division level military unit) and the Signal Military School were created in order to align the war efforts of the Romanian Armed Forces' during the Eastern and Western military campaigns.

The natural evolution of the Signal branch (currently called the Communications and Information Technology and Cybernetic Defence Branch) within the Romanian Armed Forces is closely related to the technological discoveries that imprint to the CIS domain a unique dynamic; the generations of CIS capabilities develop once at 2 years, fact that requires continuous adaptation of the structures, permanent financial investments and technical staff,

able to learn and continuously further develop; the complexity is probably due to the central role of the CIS systems in the conduct of the current military operations: conducting the whole spectrum of CIS missions in all five operational domains (land, air, maritime, cyber and cosmic). Therefore, regardless the hierarchical level where they perform in the Romanian Armed Forces, the Signal structures provide interoperability between national and allied CIS systems through the Federated Mission Networking (FMN) principles.

Moreover, being able to operate complex, modern CIS capabilities that can adapt to the mission needs, which covers the propagation of the waveforms (radio, microwave, tropospheric, SATCOM, optical fibre, laser) into the electromagnetic spectrum, and are permanently being subject to the Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities over the operational CIS and networks infrastructures, the communications and information technology military units are always in the first line of the Romanian Armed Forces missions and provide the necessary CIS support and interconnection through the National Defence Network (NDN). The main element of this network is The Permanent Military Communications Network (RTP), the main platform, where all the network elements of the NDN converge to provide the information exchange layered by security domains and user communities. Thus, RTP is the private communications network of the Romanian MoND, which provides national coverage and, if needed, has the possibility of to expand to areas of Romanian military interest, this ensuring a



The decoration of the Battle Flag of a unit within the Communications and Informatics Command by the Chief of the Defence Staff

bus-level connection capacity of over 1 Gbps, and of over 175 Mbps at the end user level. This bus-level connection capacity ensures the management of mission-based transportation services, obtained as a result of the extensive modernization program of the network between 2016 and 2021. Being a scalable network, organized in a resilient topology, and using military, government and commercial links for transportation through the additional use of network extension capabilities in the deployable environment, it ensures the timely provision of CIS services at all levels (strategic, operational and tactical). Being a predominantly IP network, as a result of the modernization process, RTP ensures the development of the Protected Core Network (PCN) technology, thus facilitating the implementation of the military “cloud” concept at the organization level.

The other communications components of RMNC, in this case the radio component with integrated services, the satellite component, the tropospheric radio component, the TETRA DIMETRA radio network and the optical component, ensure the horizontal layering and resilience of the communications system, in order to enable the

secure interconnection of military static and mission secret deployable networks needed for the provision of voice, data, video streaming, functional services and C2 programs to land, air, navy and special operation forces. Also, at network architectures, interoperability points with allied structures are ensured in order to achieve a proper cooperation.

With over of 20 years of experience in providing long distance communications services for national military structures deployed to the theatres of operations (NATO, EU/OSCE and UN-led missions) and in achieving interoperability with allied military structures through satellite and radio communications capabilities, we consider that we are able to provide the users with the optimal technical solutions for information exchange requirements.

While implementing the digitization processes at organization level, the aggressive cyber environment, the unpredictable security context and the technological evolution impose a fundamental trend of federalisation in military communications networks and services. This requires the need to adapt the military CIS System, according to FMN principles, by achieving interoperability of “day zero” and “day



.....  
Military School of Communications, Information Technology  
and Cyber Defence Battle Flag Ceremony



.....  
Graduation ceremony at the Military School of Communications,  
Information Technology and Cyber Defence

one” CIS systems and services of national users, necessary to meet the information exchange requirements, by providing a services baseline specific to the FMN Spiral 3, as a standard element within static and deployable CIS networks and sharing the operational situation awareness to all armed forces. By implementing the interoperability standards in the development process of national CIS capabilities, the affiliation of the Romanian Armed Forces to the FMN initiative, the existence on the national territory of a NATO CIS DCM type structure and the sustained work of all those who serve the field of communications, information technology and cyber defence, turns the CIS field into a modern MOS, with high readiness and deployability levels ready to face all challenges and requirements of the operational fields.

The adaptation of the CIS educational system in accordance with the current needs of the ROU MoND, the research in the communications and information technology branch, the permanent testing of technological solutions and the training of CIS structures within the national (CETATEA) and international (CWIX, Steadfast Cobalt, MILEX and Cyber-coalition) exercises enable the development CIS field.

Based on the lessons learned so far from the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, where drone systems and high-precision weapon systems have been widely used, the efficiency of using flexible, resilient and mobile CIS systems capable of operating in multiple propagation environments and highly resistant to electronic warfare allow both command structures and operational forces to exert the command & control of action elements, have a better awareness of the operational situation, an effective coordination between the weapon systems (air-to-ground, air-to-air, ground-to-ground) and provision of logistical support. This way, the Romanian Armed Forces’ CIS structures’ effort focuses on maintaining the current CIS system operational, and on

identifying, testing, validating and developing new CIS capabilities that can meet the short, medium and long-term requirements.

Among these requirements, we should emphasize the equipping with broadband mobile satellite communications systems, critical CIS links communications equipments, broadband radio systems with capabilities able to operate in ad-hoc networks, Wi-fi tactical radio communication systems to facilitate the mobility of forces and assets in the operational environment, tropospheric radio systems, TEMPEST deployable systems for mission networks, swarm drone for CIS application and anti-drone protection systems.

The “digital revolution” in the military field can be improved by exploring and developing future technologies such as 5G, AI and IOT capabilities in the military cloud, which are forward-looking projects that involve an extensive process of documentation, testing and validation of technical solutions.

In terms of the recognition of space as an environment for conducting military operations, since Romania does not have a spatial infrastructure, but only uses satellite services for missions, at the current moment at the level of the ROU MoD, through the Communications and Informatics Command, a national space program is being developed. The latest MILSATCOM project is considered a complex and ambitious project for the Romanian security community, currently being developed by the ROU MoND.

The satellite procurement program was declared a country project in 2018.

The initiation of Romania’s space program subscribes to the international efforts made in the space field, and can represent a major national contribution at Allied level, aiming at becoming a security provider on NATO’s Eastern flank.

The Space and Radiocommunications Agency was established on July 2021, and subordinated to the Communications and Informatics Command. Its main goals were to develop the Romanian MILSATCOM program and provide satellite services to the Romanian Armed Forces, by procuring satellite capacities from commercial operators and providing SATCOM management of the links through ground Anchor Stations.

The Space and Radiocommunications Agency also includes a Space Weather Component and sends notices to the National Military Command Center regarding the appearance of disturbances in the ionosphere, which can decrease the precision of locations determined by Global Positioning Systems (GPS) used for navigation by ships, aircraft, and vehicles and impacts on satellites and creates HF radio wave disturbance.

The purpose of transforming the operational requirements into capabilities and the electromagnetic impulse into information should be the motto of the Signal personnel.

Always online!!!



# JOINT LOGISTICS COMMAND (JLC)



Military armored  
vehicles during  
Romanian  
National Day  
Parade

**J**oint Logistics Command acts jointly and ensures the establishment and the management of the strategic stock according to the available competences and resources.

In accordance with the current legal framework, Joint Logistics Command provides support to military actions at the strategic, operative and tactical levels, through its subordinate structures (large units and logistic support units, training units, pre-academic military education units and other structures established by law).

During peacetime, Joint Logistics Command provides both the logistical support to the Ministry of National Defence (MoND) central structures, in a wide area of specific activities (goods and services) and also to the Joint Forces Command (JFC), in the functional areas of the logistic support, according to its competencies.

In case of armed aggression, when the state of siege is established, the state of mobilization or the state of war are declared, Joint Logistics Command mobilizes, depending on the situation, its own forces and subordinates them,

at the Chief of Defence Staff's order, to the ROU JFC, providing also the necessary resources so that the Services' Staffs can conduct military operations.

At present, in order to participate in missions and operations outside the Romanian territory, Joint Logistics Command is rendering operational two National Support Elements intended to assure the logistic support of the Romanian forces deployed to the Western Balkans theatre of operations.

In order to strengthen the Alliance presence on the national territory, Joint Logistics Command implements the SOM Facility project within the 126th SOM Base with funds provided from the NATO Security Investment Program.

The construction works are to be completed at the end of the first quarter of 2023, followed by the NATO audit inspections and the commissioning of the facilities. Thus, Host Nation Support (HNS) support capabilities for the foreign military forces entering, staging, operating or transiting the national territory (SOM) will be significantly increased.

*JLC has a significant contribution to the NATO Defence Planning Process, especially in the development of the Capabilities Targets within the logistic support field, such as transportation, storage, movement control, supply, embarkation/ debarkation, logistic engineering, maintenance and force protection entities. JLC also develops RSOM facilities, which enable NATO forces to act on ROU territory, in air, naval and ground terminals.*

Within the European Union, Joint Logistics Command participates with specialists at the working group meetings organized by the European Defence Agency / EDA on the integrated development of the defence capabilities, military technologies, as well as the decision-making mechanism of this institution. In the same context, Joint Logistics Command participates with specialists in the initiatives associated with the process of development and joint use of European defence capabilities such as Pooling and Sharing.

Joint Logistics Command makes an important contribution in the field of NATO defence planning process, respectively in the development of the Capability Targets specific to the logistic field ensuring joint level support capabilities, which includes transport, storage, movement control, supply, boarding-landing, engineering for logistics, maintenance and force protection. At the same time, Joint Logistics Command plans to develop facilities such as reception, stationary and onward movement / ROM, which will allow NATO forces to act on the national territory in the air, naval and land transport terminals.



Transport vehicles during deployment exercise

# CYBER DEFENCE COMMAND

**N**ATO Summit Warsaw 2016 and the Away Day meeting of NATO's Cyber Defence Committee, Bucharest was the starting point and the opportunity for a Romanian cyber command.

The Cyber Defence Command was established after the creation of the legal framework and the decision taken to transform the Agency for Military Information Systems and Services.

The idea of bringing together the management of IT networks and services with cyber defence has proven to be very inspiring and successful, especially for the military field. The integration of these two areas at the level of a command contributed to the common understanding of the situation and to the generation of a coherent response to the cyber security events.

The Cyber Defence Command was established on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 and subordinated to the Chief of the Defence Staff.

The Cyber Defence Command actively participates in the missions accomplished by the Romanian Armed Forces. In this context, it has the role to plan, organize, control and conduct cyberspace operations, in order to support the networks' functional resilience and to generate effects in support of the joint forces within national and allied environments.

The Cyber Defence Command has two main subordinate units: Information Technology Agency and Cyber Defence Agency.

The Information Technology Agency develops, implements, integrates and manages the IT networks for the Romanian MoND. It offers services such as networking, infrastructure storage and data processing, communication and collaboration, IT&C application development, verification and validation. It also supports MoND's missions and

activities and deployed networks for operations and exercises.

The Information Technology Agency enables users to access, store, process, transmit, and manipulate information within military networks.

Cyber Defence Agency provides cyber security within the MoND networks. It provides support to MoND users for the execution of their daily activities and missions, and strengthens the MoND ability



to quickly and securely share information between our users and with our allies and partners and to withstand and respond to cyber-attacks. It assures the resilience of the MoND networks by offering specialized services to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from cyber security incidents.

Cyber Defence Agency enhances the trustworthiness of MoND's ICT products, services

and applications by means of the cybersecurity verification and validation process and offers technical expertise to the process of designing and implementing new cyber security capabilities.

From the beginning, the Cyber Defence Command has set ambitious goals concerning its missions, operational capacity and its role in the digitalization of the MoND.

Also, the Cyber Defence Command represents the Ministry of National Defence in the Cyber Security Operational Council and actively contributed to the Draft Law on Cyber Security and Defence.

The Cyber Defence Command represents the Ministry of National Defence within the PESCO Project, Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cyber Security (CRRTs), co-chairing the council. The project started in 2018, with 6 participating member states: Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania.

The entire performance of the Cyber Defence Command has benefited from an open and wide collaboration with other national defence institutions that operate in the cyber defence field, both at national level and abroad, as well as with the US, NATO, and EU institutions. This collaboration with



Romanian servicemen during cyber-defence exercise

our allies was a real success in our joint exercises, such as Saber Guardian, Steadfast Cobalt, CyDEX, Amber Mist, Concordia, Locked Shields, Cyber Perseu, Noble Guardian, MilCERT, CyberMAN and Cyber Coalition.

### The Cyber Defence Command focuses on the following objectives:

- ✓ Strengthening the cyber security culture at institutional level;
- ✓ Establishing, organizing and training cyber defence forces;
- ✓ Recruitment of the military personnel and opportunity career development for the leaders;
- ✓ Rendering operational the cyber defence technical capabilities;
- ✓ National and international partnerships in the field of defence and cyber security.

# MAJOR PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS – Top Priority of the Romanian Ministry of National Defence

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Placed in a complex geopolitical 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.

**T**he Romanian Armed Forces participate in joint exercises and training programs with 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 its allies and partners by honoring its undertaken commitments. One of these commitments refers to the allocation of 2.5% of the GDP for defence expenditures starting 2023.

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

At present, the modernization of T-22 R frigates is considered, 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.

Following the awarding procedure of the supply agreement of the "Multifunctional corvette" product, the association between Naval Group (France) and Șantierul Naval Constanța S.A. was declared winner.

At the time being, the form and content of the Agreement Framework and subsequent Contract are being negotiated with the winner, their signing following afterwards.

### HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEMS (HIMARS) TO EQUIP THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES

The acquisition of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) is one of the main procurement programs for which on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the law for the implementation of "Indirect fire support capability" adjacent to the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) was approved by the Parliament of Romania. 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 for three battalions: ammunition, C2 elements, sensors, logistic support, maintenance, cryptographic equipment, and personnel's training.

The choice to equip the Romanian Armed Forces with the HIMARS system derives from the need to have modern artillery equipment,



HIMARS

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 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.

Up until now, the equipment for the first HIMARS battalion has been delivered, the rest of it being delivered in the 2023-2025 timeframe.

Beside 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.

## **PATRIOT HIGH SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM – HSAM**

The main objective of Patriot High Surface-to-Air Missile procurement program is to supply the Romanian Air Forces with 7 HSAM systems that will improve air and anti-ballistic missile defence capabilities. 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 as well as the missiles.

The Romanian Parliament approved in 2017 the Law 222/2017 regarding the Patriot systems purchase. The total costs are \$3.9 billion USD before VAT.

Up until this moment, six Letters of Acceptance have been signed with the United States Government for the first batch of four Fire Units/FUs, ammunition and the associated services, with a total cost of 2,2 billion USD.

The main contractors of the package of equipment and services adjacent to the PATRIOT systems are the US Raytheon and Lockheed-Martin Companies.

The first PATRIOT High Surface-to-Air Missile system arrived in Romania in August, 2020. The acceptance tests were finalized in the second part of October, being followed by the training of personnel manning the 74th PATRIOT Regiment on the specific configuration delivered to Romania, as well as a collective training of the crews with a view of developing the operating and maintenance skills, and improving the techniques, tactics and procedures required to operate the system.

The following 3 FUs are currently being delivered and the acceptance tests are planned to be performed starting by December 2022 and until April, 2023.

## **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 endowment 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.

The foundation for the procurement program is being laid, a normative act draft for a specific purchase will be developed.

### THE LAND FORCES START THE MODERNIZATION OF SENSORS

The wide range of threats caused the importance of surveillance missions to grow exponentially: protection of troops, military equipment and facilities against intrusions of personnel and vehicles.

This year, there are two on-going procurement programs run by the Land Forces. The "Ground Surveillance Radar – ALERT and the "Unattended

Ground Sensor System – UGS" Program , which will detect people movement from a distance of at least 75m, the for wheeled vehicles' displacement at a 250m distance and the tracked vehicles' movement at 350 m distance". For both programs, their respective producers intend to deliver two of each system by the end of the current year.

### 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.

Up to this date, the Romanian Air Force has been equipped with 17 F-16 aircrafts, which were transferred from the Portuguese Government, thus, making up the first multirole aircraft squadron, in

.....  
F-16





PIRANHA 5

accordance with the “gradual building of air defence capabilities” concept, in the “Multirole Air Force Aircraft” Program. At the same time, aircrafts from the 1<sup>st</sup> squadron will enter a modernization process, reaching a configuration fitting the current NATO standards.

In order to continue the multirole aircraft procurement process and build Transition Operational Capabilities made up of 3 F-16 fighter squadrons, the Romanian Parliament has approved, in July 2022, a law for the purchase of 32 aircrafts from the Norwegian Government, with its adjacent logistic support, personnel training and technical assistance. The contract for the purchase of the 32 F-16 aircrafts from Norway was signed at the

beginning of November 2022, the program lasting for a of three year-period.

In the same law, the Parliament approved the purchase of additional logistical support from the US Government for the 32 F-16s and their modernization to the same configurations possessed by the 1<sup>st</sup> squadron.

## UAS-TO CLASS II SYSTEM PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

Romanian Government approved in 2021, by Decision no. 912/2021, the specific competitive procedure for the acquisition of minimum 2 – maximum 7 UAS-TO Class II Systems. According to

the provisions of Decision no. 912/2021, in 2022 the specific procedure related to the “UAS-TO Class II System” Procurement Program was reinitiated.

At this moment the acquisition procedure is in progress.

### MOBILE ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEM

Electronic warfare systems are highly complex nowadays and can provide soldiers with across electronic spectrum superiority in the areas of operations.

ROMTEHNICA, a company subordinated to the Ministry of National Defence, launched, in September, three tenders for the acquisition of three electronic warfare systems: SCORPION portable electronic warfare systems, LINX Electronic Warfare Systems for H/V/UHF Communications and ARGUS Electronic Warfare Systems for V/UHF Communications.

### NAVAL STRIKE MISSILE COSTAL DEFENCE SYSTEM PROGRAM

The goal of the procurement program is to equip the Romanian Naval Forces structures with

Naval Strike Missile – Costal Defence System, an integrated weapon system able to contribute to the strengthening of the national defence capability and increase interoperability with the allied forces, by having in place a reliable deterrence capability on NATO’s Eastern flank, at the Black Sea.

According to this goal, in 2021 the Romanian Parliament approved Law no.37, whereby the SIML (Romanian version program NSM CDS) is achieved through the award by the Government of Romania to the United States of America of the Letter of Offer and Acceptance type contract, including for the procurement of products and services necessary to establish a production capability and maintenance facilities for the Romanian Naval Forces’ systems, through technological and industrial cooperation. The first step for the successful implementation of technological and industrial cooperation activities is the selection, by the SIML manufacturer, of the Romanian economic operator where the production and maintenance capacity will be established.

Estimated target date through the LOA for the delivery of SIML systems (NSM CDS) is the fourth quarter of 2024.

*The Government intends to sign a Government Ordinance with respect to the specific procedure for the “C4I system with ISTAR capabilities” Procurement Program. According to the Acquisition Strategy and Concept Study, the estimated value for the procurement of 13 Mobile Command Centers for battalion and 4 Mobile Command Centers for brigade amounts to at least 170 million Euros. The main requirement is that the winning economic agent of the multiannual contract must build an industrial capability on Romania’s national territory.*

# HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

## in the NATO Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

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Information superiority is a key factor in maintaining NATO security. Commanders rely on Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) to achieve situational awareness, react to indicators and warnings, and exploit actionable intelligence they need to be successful in their areas of operation. ISR provides the foundation for all military operations, and its principles have been used in warfare for centuries.

Intelligence is one of the individual elements of ISR and represents the product resulting from the directed collection and processing of information regarding the environment and the capabilities and intentions of actors, in order to identify threats and offer opportunities for exploitation by decision-makers. In order to enable effective data and information gathering, the collection management process converts intelligence requirements into collection requirements, and further establishes, tasks, or coordinates with appropriate collection sources or agencies, monitoring results and re-tasking, as required.

In the collection spectrum, HUMINT represents the intelligence derived from information provided by, or collected on human sources and individuals of intelligence interest. HUMINT is often the sole source of information that allows the discovery of threat networks, key personnel, roles, morale and operational intentions, also obtaining access to physically denied areas for an inside view of buildings and other critical infrastructure. Its outcome, achieved through either observation or direct communication with people, includes answering the main intelligence question of what, where, why, how, who and when, while providing the context and narrative of events.

### THE HUMINT ENTERPRISE IN NATO

NATO has an excellently developed HUMINT Enterprise, built on the NATO Command and NATO Force Structures, and based on the Allied Nations contribution.

At its core, the NATO HUMINT Working Group (NHWG) is the specialized forum established to contribute to the continuous development of NATO HUMINT by learning from past experiences, addressing current challenges, and transforming the capability for the future.

The Centre's impressive contribution to the development of HUMINT capability in NATO is widely recognized in the Alliance. The use of modern management techniques, a knowledge-based orientation and quality assurance coupled with a continuous improvement process and willingness to partnership with academia and industry are landmarks in this modern and resilient institution.



Working in synchronization with NHWG, the NATO HUMINT Technology Working Group (NHTWG) has a recognized contribution to the development, testing and validation of HUMINT systems in support of specific activities.

Connected to NHWG, there are other specialized communities of interest that methodically approach the progress in HUMINT standardization, education and training, concept development and the collection and processing of lessons learned and best practices. As HUMINT is critical at all levels: tactical, operational, and strategic, all these bodies support, at the end, the development of a robust HUMINT capability reflected in enhanced command and control, effective coordination and synchronization within and outside the Intel domain, and improved capacity to collect data and information with respect to legal and ethical dimensions of this activity.

Moreover, the multiple features of the HUMINT activity are permanently adapted to the current trends and foresight challenges posed by Hybrid Warfare, Cyber environment, the emergence of disruptive technologies, or the generic societal evolution. The NATO HUMINT Centre of Excellence is the enabler and catalyst of the HUMINT capability development in NATO, acting together with relevant NATO structures and Nations.

## **NATO HUMINT COE – THE HUMINT HUB OF THE ALLIANCE**

HCOE is one of the top performers among the NATO COEs network, and its role is ever more critical as NATO transitions from operations to a readiness posture, preparing NATO HUMINT elements for increased flexibility, agility and responsiveness to a

large spectrum of challenges, as revealed in the new NATO strategic concept.

The establishment of the HCOE in 2009 demonstrates Romania's determination to actively support NATO with its best capabilities. By starting this project, Romania assumed a leading role in HUMINT, together with Sponsoring Nations Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and The United States of America.

Since its inception, HCOE gathered a critical mass of experienced professionals – able to provide a high-quality expertise in the HUMINT field – with the goal of transforming the NATO HUMINT Enterprise into a more interoperable and more capable force that better supports NATO missions and operations.

The HCOE director chairs NHWG and NHTWG and ensures formal liaison between these groups and other specialized groups with relevance in our domain: NATO Intelligence Training Working Group, Allied Joint Operations Doctrine Working Group, Joint Intelligence Working Group, Joint Coordination Group for ISR, etc. In doing so, HCOE coagulates the entire NATO HUMINT Community of Interest in supporting the HUMINT capability development.

Starting 2015, when the Centre marked its formal appointment as Department Head (DH) for HUMINT Education & Training (E&T), HUMINT COE engaged with ACT – Joint Force Development (JFD) to prioritize the Human Capital enhancement in NATO. As Department Head and a NATO accredited facility for education and training, the Centre continually





Commander of the NATO Center of Excellence for HUMINT at NATO Headquarters in Brussels

develops and improves a comprehensive portfolio of courses designed to promote interoperability, improve students' skills and provide a stable environment to train and share experiences.

The Education & Training provided by HUMINT COE is based on NATO policies, doctrines, directives and procedures, and includes resident/ blended courses, mobile training solutions, e-learning, support to

collective training and exercises, and provision of subject matter experts for mentorship and assistance. An in-depth Quality Management System, aligned to NATO operational needs and subsequent training requirements, ensures the delivery of effective, efficient and affordable educational solutions.

HUMINT COE possesses a flexible capacity to provide tailored, timely and cost-effective off-site training to requesting NATO Nations and institutions. Additionally, the Centre's experts assist and support the development and delivery of training programs organized by other NATO E&T facilities, such as NATO School Oberammergau, Joint Force Training Centre, and Joint Warfare Centre.

So far, more than 1600 students were trained in the HCOE premises. Additionally, 1400 students completed HCOE online courses on the NATO JADL platform, and other units and staff elements benefited of HCOE mobile education and training teams' support.

The Centre provides a proactive presence in the intelligence and security related COEs Community of Interest, supporting the NATO Intelligence Enterprise within the framework of NATO Intelligence

Academy.

Over the past thirteen years, HUMINT COE has led all major initiatives in the HUMINT doctrinal area and accomplished the custodian function for NATO HUMINT Doctrine and NATO HUMINT Techniques, Tactics and Procedures. Beside this, the Centre's specialists assisted in the development of the NATO HUMINT Policy

and the ACO Directives for Human Intelligence and 2X function, along with other relevant documents for the discipline.

The custodianship of NATO HUMINT standardization documents requires a close coordination with NATO Standardization Office and with relevant actors in the Military Committee specialized bodies. This ensures harmonization with other Intelligence publications, developing and deconflicting terminology, or framing reporting forms.

In order to improve HUMINT interoperability in NATO, HUMINT COE developed a series of handbooks as accessible guides in operations, or in support of training and experiments. The handbooks are intended to provide guidelines and reference for standardized HUMINT procedures and bridge the gap between HUMINT needs for guidance and the existing official documents, especially at tactical level.

HUMINT COE considers Lessons Learned as a priority, promoting a continuous improvement strategy based on observations retrieved from identified shortfalls and best practices during current operations and NATO exercises. The Lessons Learned and Best Practices Community of Interest, along with a dedicated HUMINT repository on NATO LL Portal, are the main venues created by HUMINT COE for stakeholders to effectively share, store, process, and disseminate all the relevant experiences and observations in the HUMINT domain.

In the field of Concept Development and Experimentation (CD&E), HUMINT COE promotes innovative concepts and technical prototypes in support of the discipline adaptation to current and future NATO requirements. The Centre's CD&E experts develop and experiment new concepts, studies and technologies in cooperation with external military and civilian experts. Over the last years, the CD&E efforts have covered a wide range of areas of interest, which includes human aspects of the operational environment, understanding and interacting with migrants, HUMINT in cyberspace, employment of NATO HUMINT elements in Collective Defence Operations, NATO HUMINT operator toolset and artificial intelligence applications in HUMINT.

The Centre's impressive contribution to the development of HUMINT capability in NATO is widely recognized in the Alliance. The use of modern management techniques, a knowledge-based orientation and quality assurance coupled with a continuous improvement process and willingness to partnership with academia and industry, are landmarks in this modern and resilient institution.

HUMINT represents the oldest and most elementary form of intelligence activity and will remain equally relevant, regardless how "smart" and technology-related the humanity would become. The "unseen" and the "untold", the intent, motivation and decision-making, the feel and like – or dislike – will always stay with the humans; thus, in the information gathering picture, HUMINT will always fill-in the limitations of the technological collection means in a symbiotic association, but must always keep the pace with the world's multidimensional progress.

Defining how HUMINT will operate in the future is a critical concern in shaping the evolution of the supporting policy and doctrine, organization, or materiel in which we seek excellence. In this respect, our knowledge-based organization stance is to be leveraged by solid information knowledge arrangements, a sound quality management system, continuous improvement process, staff development and meaningful Academic Outreach and connection to Security Industry. In this respect, HUMINT COE collaborates with Babes Bolyai University and Romanian National Intelligence Academy on a few projects related to artificial intelligence and psychology applicability in support of HUMINT.

Publications, software, toolsets, educational solutions or contribution to the NATO collective training, exercises, and evaluation, or generic capability development, is the way we understand to give our tribute for a better integrated NATO Joint Force.

Through the committed support of the Framework Nation and Sponsoring Nations, HCOE's work continues to ensure HUMINT remains relevant and viable, as an ever-improving support to NATO operations.

# THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES' ROLE in the National Campaign Vaccination against COVID-19

Like in the other NATO member states, the Romanian Armed Forces' contribution to the national effort made to combat and limit the effects of the SARS CoV 2 pandemic was vital even after the appearance of the COVID vaccine, the only safe and efficient tool to protect the population.

**T**he Romanian Armed Forces had a very important role beginning with the coordination of the preliminary actions and culminating with the vaccination campaign of the Romanians from the rural areas, made by the medical teams of the regional military hospitals.

Thus, by decision of the Prime Minister of Romania, Colonel Doctor Valeriu Gheorghiuța was appointed Chairman of the National Coordination Committee of the COVID-19 Vaccination Activities. Until his appointment in this very important position, the military doctor was Chief of the Medical Center of Epidemiologic Intervention at "Dr. Carol Davila" Central Military Emergency Hospital from Bucharest.

"I had the pleasure to work in this team with experts in the logistic, medical, scientific and communication fields. They are special people, who understood the importance of the moment and I avail myself of this opportunity to thank them. Together, we faced all logistic challenges and overcame the moments of maximum difficulty and made decisions in the interest of public health." – *Colonel Doctor Valeriu Gheorghiuța, Chairman of the National Coordination Committee of the COVID-19 Vaccination Activities*



Colonel Doctor Valeriu Gheorghiuța,  
Chairman (2020-February 2022) of the  
National Coordination Committee of the  
COVID-19 Vaccination Activities

State Secretary Doctor Andrei Baciú was appointed Vice-Chairman of the National Coordination Committee of the COVID-19 Vaccination Activities by the same decision of the Romanian Prime Minister. An aspect less known by the audience is that Doctor Andrei Baciú is a graduate of “Mihai Viteazul” National Military College from Alba-Iulia.

“I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in this unique moment to which we all contributed and adapted on the way, in record time, the proof being that Romania was among the first countries at vaccination in Europe and at global level, after two months since the establishment of the vaccination committee.” *Doctor Andrei Baciú, State Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Vice Chairman of the National Coordination Committee of the COVID-19 Vaccination Activities*

MoND military and civilian personnel was involved both in the leadership and coordination activities of the COVID-19 national vaccination campaign as well as in the operational part of the campaign. The vaccination centers were opened for all citizens



.....  
 Doctor Andrei Baciú, State Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Vice Chairman (2020 - March 2022) and Chairman of the National Coordination Committee of the COVID-19 Vaccination Activities

who were willing to get vaccinated. Researchers of “Cantacuzino” Medical-Military Research and Development Institute were also involved in the vaccination process.



.....  
 The coordinators of a vaccination centre against COVID-19 in Bucharest and an officer from the communication team #ROVACCINARE

## The Romanian Armed Forces' role in the National Campaign Vaccination

3 graduates of "Mihai Viteazul" National Military College from Alba-Iulia, Major Dorin Chirca (Social Media Coordinator), State Secretary Doctor Andrei Baciu and Lieutenant Colonel Laurențiu Popescu, commander of a battalion tasked to organize call-center structures designated to schedule the population for vaccination against COVID-19.



With reference to the logistic field, the activity was coordinated by a MoND commissioned officer. This field and the auxiliary activities were the responsibility of the Ministry of National Defence.

The vaccines were stored in the depots organized in the Romanian Armed Forces sanitary network and the stock management was coordinated by the Logistic Group of the Committee.

The Call-Center structures responsible for the scheduling of the population for vaccination were manned by military personnel assigned in MoND, who operated over 2,4 million calls. These structures were staffed by 1,560 soldiers.

13,664 military and civilian personnel from MoND were involved in the vaccination support missions and accomplished 4,693 missions (transportation of doses, providing for the functionality of the mobile centers).

The population fully trusted the transportation and storage of the vaccines, which is due to the involvement of the Military and the very good image the Romanians have about the Romanian Armed Force.

With respect to the communication during the campaign, half of the personnel of the Communication Group was assigned in the MoND,

consisting in information and public relations officers assigned both in the MoND central structures and the Services.

The online communication had a very important role in the process of informing the population in Romania over the last years. The online communication of the campaign was coordinated by a MoND officer, assigned to the Information and Public Relations Directorate, Major Dorin Chirca, who succeeded in obtaining very good results in a very short time and significantly contributed to the building of #ROVACCINARE brand. Official accounts of the campaign were opened in the Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Tik-Tok social media network, which generated interaction very quickly and ranked among the top institutional pages from Romania. Over 17,2 million unique users interacted on Facebook Page in only 12 months. The promotion of the military personnel and of the war veterans in the vaccination process generated a very good interaction, being appreciated by the public and contributing to the increase of trust in the vaccination benefits.

An extremely important aspect is the fact that almost 11,94 million accounts are registered within

Facebook social network, which means that this page accomplished its established goals for the online communication and reached the target audience established in the communication strategy.

“ROVaccinare Facebook page shortly became an information hub both for citizens and the personnel from the vaccination centers. The goal was to involve communities and the entire medical corps in the correct information and support of the vaccination campaign as well as in combating the fake news. By maintaining a tight connection with the page followers and by offering documented answers, several issues were identified and solved in certain vaccination centers, beside the positive impact and the attraction of communities in supporting pro health – pro vaccination messages.” Major Dorin Chirca, coordinator of the online communication campaign, commissioned officer within the Information and Public Relations Directorate of the MoND.

The Communication Group managed over 20,000 public interest requests, petitions, interpellations and alerts submitted by the citizens and journalists and the experience of the MoND information and public relations personnel contributed to the efficient functioning of the group. Part of the MoND information and public relations internal procedures have been implemented and adapted.

The special events organized in support of the vaccination campaign were coordinated by the MoND personnel who significantly contributed to the increase of population’s trust in the campaign.

The MoND medical personnel was also involved in the National Programme “The City vaccinates the Village”, which consisted in mobile vaccination teams that went to rural areas and vaccinated all the willing people.

You can find everything about the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign at: <https://bit.ly/3ie9r0a>.

*Ministry of National Defence put at the disposal of the citizens, for the medical activity, 60 vaccination centers organized in military units and 12 mobile centers. Almost 500,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered in these centers.*

*283 doctors, 422 nurses and 247 registrars were assigned to the fixed 60 vaccination centers, while the mobile vaccination centers functioned with 20 doctors, 20 nurses and 20 registrars (1.012 military medical personnel).*



Members of the communication team of #ROVACCINARE

# A DECADE OF ONLINE COMMUNICATION for MoND

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The online communication in MoND started in 2012, when, after an efficient assessment, the Information and Public Relations Directorate acknowledged that the most important category of the public was lost from the institutional communication: the young audience. Why did it lose it? Because the youth hadn't read newspaper for a long time, they watched television less and less and, even worse,...they did not have the chance of living with a grandfather or great-grandfather who could tell them a battlefield story and inculcate that patriotic spirit of which other generations benefitted from!

In exchange, those young people had parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who had been used by the armed forces to work at the Danube-Black Sea Canal, in agricultural or construction works, who... what do you think of their perception about the armed forces? By no means did they think that it was a modern NATO-member armed force, which participated in peace-keeping and combat missions in the theaters of operation all over the world!

To this we must add the fact that at that time, the Romanian Armed Forces were going through a transformation and modernization process because of the elimination of conscription and the recruitment centers did not have the necessary workload: the sending of the recruitment order...

These were the arguments which determined us to look for an efficient communication channel in order to meet the communication requirements and send the information to the institution's

audience, while the massive increase of the online traffic was the response to our search. Of course, everything was done after a careful assessment of the existing risks and benefits posed by this new field.

Moreover, I must mention that we need the direct interaction with the public so that we get to know each other better, share common values and last, but not the least, get an honest and real feedback from the audience.

Currently after 10 years since the creation of the first official social media accounts, the online communication represents one of the main components of the MoND Communication Strategy, being a complementary course of action, which supports the eventual communication as well as the communication with the community. Furthermore, the social networks ensure the propagation of the information in environments less accessible to the rest of the communication



**Ministerul Apararii Nationale, Romania -**

**www.mapn.ro** ✓

673K followers • 170 following



Promote

Manage

Edit

channels, the classic communication means used by all the state institutions, including by MoND.

Practically, having the same objectives and, mainly, the same messages, by using an adequate language when addressing the public, we send the military institution information and messages in a coherent and rapid manner through the social media networks.

We must not forget that the soldiers conduct their activity away from the eyes of the civilian society, behind the walls of the military units, sometimes even isolated and the interaction with them is minimum. If we add to these aspects the deprivations imposed by law and regulations, it is clear that the civilian society has few chances to get to know them. In spite all of these, people judge them most of the times ... And here, we notice another benefit of this interaction which these communication channels offered us in order to accurately meet the need for information.

Since the opening of the official Facebook page of the Information and Public Relations Directorate, we have tried to bring the Military to the attention of the civilian society by creating various events which we conducted together with local community in order to get to know us better and share the same common

values such as patriotism, respect for profession and our people. We started quantifying the successes and got more visibility and the public got a better understanding of the place and role of the military personnel in the civilian society.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNICATING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

The armed force is a fundamental institution of the rule of law, an institution whose missions and activities must be brought to the knowledge of the public.

We have permanently searched for communication channels in order to inform the audience and bring to its knowledge the most important aspects of our activity. And we wanted to do this in the most honest manner, in real time, with minimum costs and maximum efficiency! So, we can communicate with less costs and maximum efficiency, the social media accounts working in tight connection with the MoND traditional media products.

Also, with the help of the social networks, we try to overcome a part of the traditional methods



of communication which only focus on information and less, or even at all, on the interaction with the target audience. In addition, we can directly send the information to the individuals, without taking the risk that this can be slowed down or distorted by an intermediate communication channel. Thus, we access a channel which is closed to the classic means of communication where we can have a dialogue with the youth about topics related to the military field and we can promote events, operations, actions and other MoND activities in the online environment.

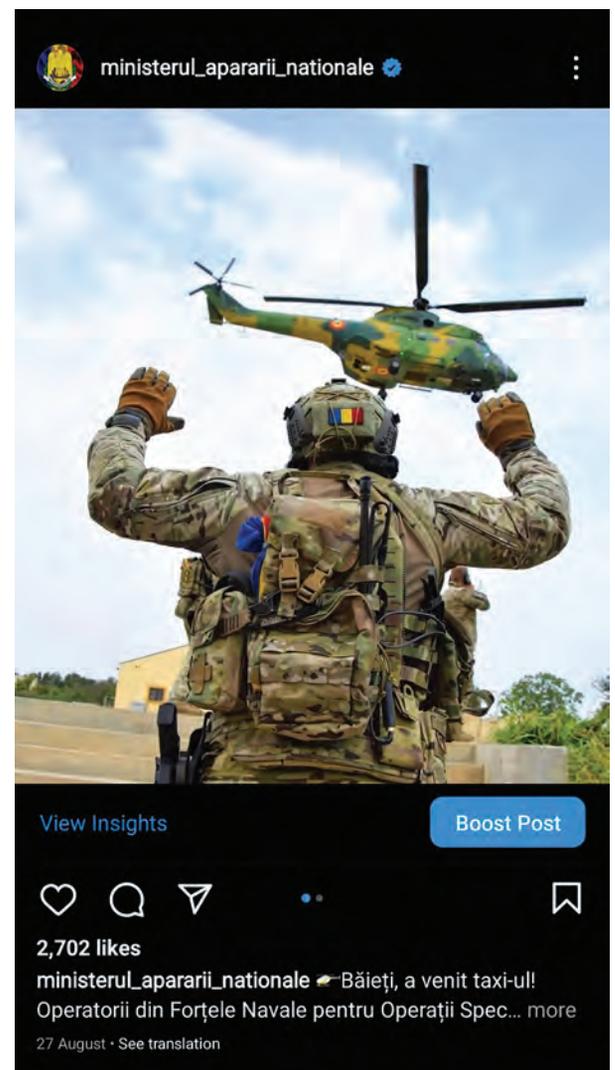
Also, we must recall the fact that the social media networks are currently a potential source of information for the mass-media, the information posted on the social media pages being taken over more often than not by the press trusts and

broadcasted at peak audience hours by the main television posts.

Not least, as we previously mentioned, the social media pages can be accessed by everybody and address not only the large audience but also the military personnel, their families the ex-soldiers that have retired.

## PRESENCE ON DIFFERENT ONLINE NETWORKS AND PLATFORMS

The criteria that lied at the heart of choosing the social media networks to participate in were the development of the respective networks, the number of members, their options as well as the presence in these networks of those categories of target audience for our institution. That is why we also expanded our participation in the TikTok or Instagram networks, for example.



Each social media network is used to send the messages to certain target public audience, such as Facebook (the MoND page – 670,000 followers) and You Tube (the MoND page – approximately 47,000 followers). We address both the internal and external public, with an age varying between 12 and 64. The You Tube page also comprises “As you were” vlog Project which brings to the attention of the young public a well-known military vlogger, Lieutenant Radu Chirilă, who has recently become a full member of our team by being assigned on one of the few remaining vacant positions. We are proud that we currently have a designated online communication team. A young, dynamic and very creative team which accomplishes these functions with pleasure and a lot of enthusiasm by permanently representing the military institution in the online environment, including on Saturdays and Sundays. And, because we reminded Radu, I feel obligated to enumerate the rest of the team members who manage the online communication: Captain Mirela Viță, First Sergeant Iulian Vișan and public servants Mirela Dumitru and Cristina Nițulescu! They are those who daily identify opportunities, create, plan, post, monitor and analyze everything related to the military institution in the online environment. And all are equally involved in the smooth running of the activity ... some on the Facebook platform, others on the Tik Tok, You Tube, Twitter, Instagram or Flickr platforms!

On Instagram (the MoND page- approximately 66,000 followers), we address a younger public, aged between 18 and 30; on TiK Tok (the MoND page- approximately 437,000 followers) we have an even younger audience made up of adolescents aged below 18; and on Twitter (the MoND page – approximately 28,000 followers) we mainly have an external audience, organizational leaders, Alliance and coalition partners and mass-media.

Also, we created and developed the online integrative platform: armataromaniei.ro, which hosts an institutional blog and support applications which support the social media network pages and the live broadcastings.

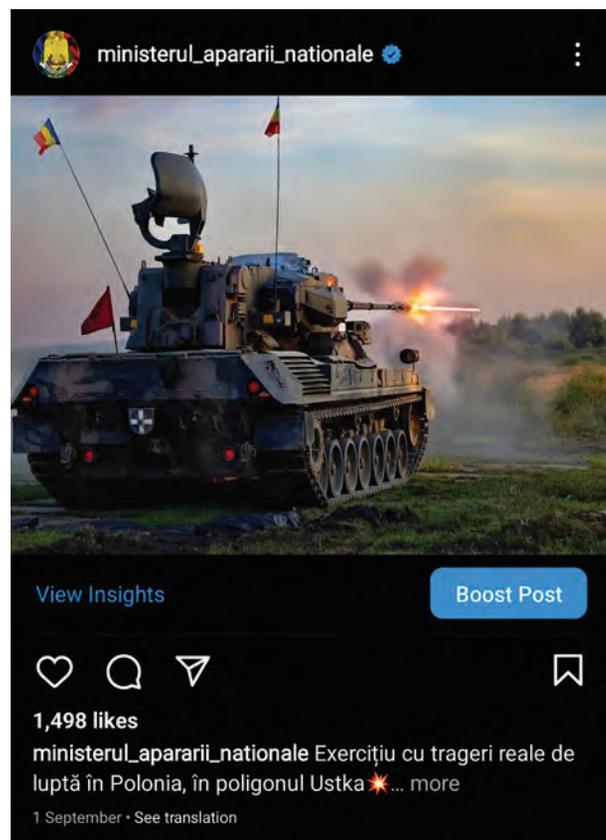
The Facebook account network, which currently consists of 150 institutional accounts, enables the communication on niche topics and fields such as: health (which was of real help in the management

of the COVID crisis), recruitment, education and culture, sports, equipment etc.

Moreover, we must mention that these accounts belong to several structures deployed on the entire Romanian territory, which can rapidly promote the institutional messages to the local public and provide support to efficiently solve the emerging crisis situations. All these pages are coordinated by the Online Communication Office who develops the policies in the field and trains the personnel who manages these accounts.

The 2022 challenges were connected to the situation from Ukraine and the arrival of the NATO soldiers in Romania, as well as the countering of certain fake news regarding the personnel mobilization and the displacement of the NATO equipment convoys on Romanian territory. The most recent projects of the MoND online communication team also include the LinkedIn and Flickr networks and an online assessment platform in order to better monitor the online environment and have a quick response and efficiently quantify the results. One thing is for sure: we’ll continue to expand and evolve at the same time with technology which brings people closer!

Stay close!



# Army Sports Club

## “STEUA” BUCHAREST

Army Sports Club “Steaua” Bucharest is the most important sports club in Romania! It was founded on June 7th, 1947, in order to continue in an institutionalized framework the old tradition of sports practiced in the Romanian Armed Forces. Throughout its 70 years of existence, the club’s athletes have always been the protagonists of national and international competitions, winning multiple medals at the Olympic Games, World and European Championships.

**T**he first sports unit of the club was football, which, after reorganizing the championship dispute system, was admitted to the first national division, as a result of some play offs. The same year (1947), other 7 sports units were established within the club: horse riding, fencing, field tennis, boxing, volleyball, athletics and shooting.

The foreman Florin MARINESCU scored the first goal in the unit’s football history, in the third stage of the national championship, during the game CFR Timisoara – AS Armata (final score 7-1).

Tennis player Gheorghe VIZIRU became Romanian Champion, winning the first title in the club’s history. Two other national champion titles were won in 1947 by horse riders Valentin FOTESCU, at horse training, and Mihai MĂINESCU, at horse obstacle courses.

A year later, AS Armata became the Central Sports Club of the Romanian Military, and athlete Dumitru TĂLMACIU became the first military sportsman with a national record-breaking in the 3,000-meter race.

In 1961, the club was renamed, from the Central Army House into the Army Sports Club, also being called “STEUA” – nowadays famous worldwide.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1974, the football stadium “Steaua” from Ghencea Complex was inaugurated with an audience of 30,000 people. The stadium was demolished in 2018 and replaced by an ultra-modern arena to be available to the public since 2020. In fact, many of the club’s units use Ghencea Sports Complex for their activities.



## SPORTS

**ATHLETICS** – Among the first sports units that appeared in the peak year 1947 was the athletics one, which is also one of the most successful for the “red-blue” club. In order to have a clear image of the success of this unit over the years, it is enough to remember the name of Iolanda BALAȘ.

**BASKETBALL** – Although it appeared five years after the club’s foundation, in 1952, the basketball unit had a beautiful evolution just as any other CSA Steaua sports games, and the 24 national titles reflect the success of this Steaua unit.

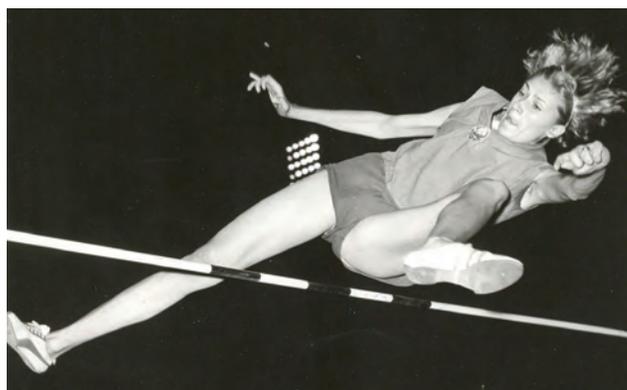
**BOXING** – Although in the post-World War II period professional boxing was still practiced, the influx of young people knocking at the gates of amateur boxing became overwhelming. It was a time when boxing became the most beloved sports after football. Being a combat sport, and at the same time a sport of courage, strength and skill, boxing was encouraged and it was practiced on a very large scale among the army. This is the reason why the boxing unit was, in 1947, among the first units set up at the same time with “Armata” Sports Association.

**ROWING** – The most prolific sports unit of Steaua Club, counting the most national and international medals and titles, most Olympic champions, as well as most world champions in its record, was established in 1949.

**FOOTBALL** – The very first unit of the club was the football unit, which, after reorganizing the championship dispute system, was admitted to the first national division, as a result of some play offs. The peak of this sport was reached on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1986, when CSA Steaua won the European Champions Cup.

**GYMNASTICS** – A sports discipline that implies not only talent, but also a lot of dedication and a conscientious, persevering training, gymnastics has always been one of the most representative sports units of Steaua Club.

**MEN’S HANDBALL** – It would not be an exaggeration to say that the history of Steaua Club’s handball unit represents the history of Romanian men’s handball itself. The four medals won at the Olympic Games and the seven at the World Championships gained by Steaua athletes with the national team speak about the value of this unit. In



.....  
Romanian world champion at athletics, Iolanda Balaș



.....  
Steaua Bucharest rowing team



.....  
The European Champions Cup winner team from 1986



.....  
Romanian world champion at gymnastics, Sandra Izbașa



Romanian world champion at judo, Alina Dumitru



Romanian world champion at swimming, Camelia Potec



Steaua Bucharest rugby team



Romanian world champion at fencing, Ana Maria Popescu

1977, Steaua won the European Champions Cup, the most important trophy.

**JUDO** – The ascension of judo as an international combat sport as well as its increasingly widespread practice among the military were the reasons that led in 1983 to the establishment of one of the “young” units of the club – the judo unit. The peak was reached in Beijing at the 2008 Olympic Games, when Alina DUMITRU won the gold medal.

**KAYAK AND CANOE** – Although the history of kayak and canoe unit didn’t start as “spicy” as the one of its “sister” – rowing, the evolution of the talented sailors or paddlers was spectacular over time and expressed in the highest level of performance that substantially enriched the club’s trophy showcase.

**WRESTLING** – Given the magnitude wherewith slugging – popular sport – was practiced among the military, the foundation of the wrestling unit in 1949 was natural and long awaited. Over the years, this unit’s athletes have won 12 Olympic medals, 44 world medals and 97 European medals!

**SWIMMING** – The unit was established in 1949, primarily due to the enthusiasm of a military swimmers group, led by Lieutenant Paul Tudor. The most important landmarks of this unit were a gold medal in Athens at the 2004 Olympic Games – won by Camelia Potec, 5 world medals and 45 European medals.

**RUGBY** – Like other units of the club, the rugby unit was founded in 1948, also due to the enthusiasm of some very talented sportsmen, including Nicolae Ghiondea, Mărgărit Blăgescu, Petre Cosmănescu, Șerban Megedinți, Emanuel Valeriu and many others, led by the first coach of the team – Gheorghe Sfetescu. The efforts of the players and the coach found their fulfillment quite quickly: only two years after the club foundation – and one year after the unit foundation – the team succeeded in winning the national champion title, at the end of a fierce dispute (which will be perpetuated over the years) with Locomotive (Grivița Rosie) and Dinamo. Afterwards, over the years, Steaua has won 37 national titles, at several age categories.

**FENCING** – One of the most representative units of the club, founded at the same time with AS Armata in 1947, is the fencing unit – with many past and present satisfactions. Three of the four

gold medals won at the Olympic Games bear the signature of the star athletes: Ion Drâmbă, Laura Badea, Ana Maria Brânză, Simona GHERMAN and Simona POP (the last three with the Romanian team at Rio 2016 OG).

**FIELD TENNIS** – The second unit established in the peak year 1947, after football, the field tennis, had the satisfaction of bringing the first national champion in the club’s history, that very same year. Gheorghe Viziru’s victory over the famous Cristea Caralulis was also the first in his career, whose contribution to the impetuous development of tennis was undeniable.

**TABLE TENNIS** – The story of the table tennis unit came as a result of the many international achievements of this exciting and spectacular sport. Founded in July 2016, the table tennis unit was perhaps the most daring project, and the newly founded unit team has set out to achieve greater performances in time, both internally and in the major international competitions.

**SHOOTING** – It would be hard to conceive that the shooting unit of a military club would not be one of the most prestigious, given the particular selection criteria for the performance segment of this sport which supposes concentration, precision and self-control. The evolution and remarkable performances of the shooters representing Steaua Sports Club prove that this is the way things are.

## RECORDS

From 1947 till now, the “red-blue” athletes have made Steaua Bucharest the most important national sports club and one of the most powerful in Europe. The 105 Olympic medals, 705 world medals and over 1,300 European medals won by the athletes of the Steaua club over the years stand as testimony.

Also, we can additionally mention the 143 medals won at Universiades and World University Championships, 371 medals at the CISM and Spartachiade Military Championships, and also over 12,000 national titles! At team level, the most important trophy was added on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1986, by the football team that won the European Champions Cup.



Dinu Loredana, Simona Gherman, Simona Pop, Ana Maria Branza Popescu



Sportsman of the Army Sports Club “Steaua” Bucharest



Medals obtained by the athletes of the Sports Club of the Army “Steaua” Bucharest



In 2022, Steaua Bucharest's athletes continued the tradition and scored outstanding results in almost all the important competitions of the world.

At Seville, the team trained by Emeric Ienei scored 2-0 with FC Barcelona, after extra time and penalty shoot-outs. That magical evening, Marius Lăcătuș and Gabi Balint scored from the spot marking 11 meters.

In the following year, Steaua had also won the European Super Cup, scoring 1-0 in the final match with Dynamo Kiev, in Monte Carlo, a goal scored by Gheorghe Hagi.

## NOTABLE RESULTS IN 2022

Simona RADIȘ became double champion at rowing, with 8+1 rowing boat and double sculls boat, and Magdalena RUSU and Ioana VRÎNCEANU become world champions with the 8+1 rowing boat.

Also, it should be noted fact that in canoeing 1 – 1000 meter race, Cătălin CHIRILĂ wined the world and European title and other two silver medals at the European and World Championships in canoeing 1 – 500 meter race.



Cătălin Chirilă



Denisa Țilvescu, Ioana Vrînceanu



At athletics, Bianca GHELBER became European champion at hammer throw with a 72,72 meter throw.

At diving, Constantin POPOVICI became the first European champion at high diving, while Cătălin PREDĂ won the silver medal.

At national level, Steaua won titles and medals at various sports. The team of the year was the

water polo men team who won the Romanian Cup and National Championship. At national level, besides numerous titles and medals won in different sports, the 2019 year team is the men's water polo team, winner of the Romanian Cup and National Championship.

*The Army Sports Club Steaua Bucharest does not focus only on performance. The club from the Ghencea Avenue also values the initiation programs and supports them by developing units where the future champions are being formed. All children are initiated and guided in athletics, horse riding, football, gymnastics, swimming, fencing, field tennis and shooting and provided with all the conditions to become the tomorrow's champions of Steaua Club.*

*The beginner training is initiated under the guidance of highly trained coaches, many of them former champions, currently employed at the club's bases located in Bucharest – Ghencea Avenue, Calea Plevnei and Săftica, Mangalia and Forban.*

# INVICTUS – WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER!

## We are a family, we are strong, we are INVICTUS

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**P**articipation of the Romanian Armed Forces soldiers in terrorism countering, peace-support and humanitarian international missions is the proof of their professionalism. These coalition-type missions or the NATO, EU and UN-led ones stand for expressions of the accomplishment of the commitments Romania assumed as a member of the international community.

The challenges posed to the military personnel were neither few nor easy, demonstrating once again that the “Freedom is not for free” and we need the soldiers’ sacrifice in order to preserve it

and remove the scourge of terrorism from the areas where the less strong ones need the support of the international community.

The Romanian Armed Forces soldiers proved their professionalism and succeeded in overcoming all challenges driven by the motto which accompanied them in all missions: “We are stronger together”.

The signs carved by the international experience of the theaters of operations can be seen today in the monuments erected in the memory of those who fell on duty while others can be observed in the injured military personnel who continued to do their

Special Operations Forces soldier promoting the Invictus spirit during a parachuting exercise



duty towards the country and made everything in order to fully reintegrate into the Romanian society.

The veterans of the theaters of operations are the most valuable argument when we talk about courage, discipline, devotion, patterns of life and patriotism. Although their wounds hurt, they stand out each time more positive, powerful and confident because the love for their country alleviate any pain and their fight in overcoming their limits is the clear proof of the steadfast identity of the Romanian soldiers.

They honorable soldiers who represented Romania in the theaters of operations, fell, raised and continue fighting for the National Flag Colors. They inspire their love for the sports and motivate us to never give up, no matter how hard it may get.

The Invictus Games represent them at their best. These represent the story of each injured soldier who overcame his limits and continued his path in life, carrier and society, proving that he is invincible. No matter how many hardships and challenges he may have to face, the soldier will never give up combat.

Because the Invictus Games do not take place as often, our injured soldiers need, the Romanian Armed Forces, together with the civilian society, established the “Invictus România” Project, a concept whose role is to thicken the military and civilian society around the injured soldiers.

Using the sports as catalyzer, we offer our injured soldiers the chance to reintegrate into the society by means of the activities organized within the project, adapted to the physical and social peculiarities of the wounded personnel. In this context, the soldiers can express their personal ideas and affiliation to social values, respectively to the Invictus spirit, can efficiently connect and communicate without any restrains and render profitable the experience gained in the theaters of operations, thus, becoming examples of winners to all of us.

The activities organized under the aegis of Invictus Romania help us create that framework in which the soldiers feel that their sacrifice is appreciated and that they have the support of the people surrounding them, no matter the type of problems they face.

The Romanian Military should have participated in the Hague Invictus Games this year but the pandemics totally changed the way of thinking,



Warrant Officer third class Popa Valentin on the athletics field - Invictus Games The Hague 2022

Sitting Volleyball Team -  
Invictus Games The Hague 2022



Members of the Invictus Romania Archery Team, Master Sergeant Romila Eduard, Master Sergeant Cojocaru Emil and Sergeant Major Căpățână Iulian verifying the score at the target board - Invictus Games The Hague 2022

living and practicing sports. Nevertheless, our injured soldiers easily adapted to the situation and understood that any change can bring good things into our life, but it is important not to give up.

Over 16-22 April 2022, the injured soldiers' team of the Romanian Armed Forces participated for the third time in the international competition Invictus Games, which supports the physical and psychical recovery through sports following the injuries suffered during military operations. After the Toronto (2017) and Sydney (2018) Editions, the Romanian injured soldiers succeeded in overcoming the pandemic, training intensely and finding their way to victory.

At Hague, alongside the other 19 participating nations, they proved once again that the true winner spirit lays in all of us, we just have to bring it to the light. Nothing, not even the pain lasts forever. If you take it step by step, you will reach its end and the biggest defeat is when you surrender without fighting.

Sometimes we just need to choose a different path to lead us to success, and the true ability lies in the power of facing the difficult challenges the life



.....  
Sitting Volleyball Team at Invictus Games The Hague 2022



.....  
Sergeant Major Cătălin Olteanu  
before the 1minute rowing race

poses us and in overcoming the obstacles with your head up and starting from scratch all over again.

And, because the peace-keeping mission of our injured soldiers continues even after having

gone through the most difficult time of their lives, alongside their English and Ukrainian injured cyclist soldiers, they brought the spirit of the “Peace Tree” from Zvolen to Bucharest. They soldiers pedaled 4 days in a row, with over 25 km per hour, and they cycled through approximately 1,000 kilometers because Sport has the power to change lives, brings people and nations together and shows us a new face of the future, based on unity, friendship, comradeship and respect. In Carol Park, on the occasion of the International Peace Day, they planted the Peace Tree, an oak, Romania’s national tree, which can survive over centuries and continues to deliver the message.

The injured soldiers from Invictus team prove that, in order to run, participate in obstacle races, practice various sports or climb a mountain, one needs self-discipline, self-awareness, dedication and effort, and not a perfect body!

This is also the story of corporal Eugen Pătru who, after activating for 6 years within Invictus Project, succeeded in getting the bronze medal at Paralympic Archery.



Corporal Eugen Pătru was badly injured in 2014, while executing a mission in the theater of operations from Afghanistan.

After the accident, he got the second degree of invalidity but continued his active-duty military career. In 2016, he joined the physical and psychical recovery programme through sports Invictus Romania and fell in love with Paralympic Archery. He became a member of “Steaua” Bucharest Army Sports Club and year after year he managed to get on the podium in most of the competitions he participated in.

In 2021, he qualified Romania to the Paralympic Games for the first time in history and in 2022 he became the first Romanian European champion in Paralympic Archery, after winning the European champion title.

The dozens of hours spent on the training field transformed him from a sniper who not long ago took part in peace support military operations into the sportsman who now makes the Romanian National Anthem resound at the most prestigious archery competitions in the world.

Romanian society has developed a true culture regarding the wounded soldiers that educates us in the spirit of comradeship, volunteerism, promotion of national values, giving us as the example of the strength with which the soldiers injured in theatres of operations have risen and continued fighting, with the help of sports.



Master Sergeant Taifas Marius at the Discus Throwing Race – Invictus Games The Hague 2022

# ROMANIA –

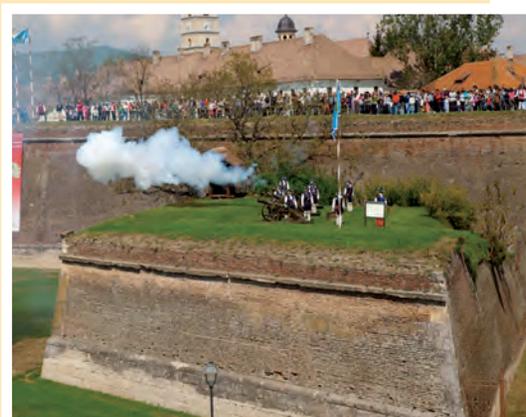
## Explore the Carpathian Garden

### BUCHAREST



- Palace of Parliament – the largest civilian administrative building in the world, as well as the heaviest worldwide.
- People’s Salvation Cathedral – symbol of the Romanian people, dedicated to all national heroes, its altar was sanctified in the year of the celebration of the Centenary of the Great Union – 2018.
- The “Dimitrie Gusti” National Village Museum, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, the National Museum of Art of Romania, the National Museum of Romanian History, the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History.
- The Old Princely Court – the residence of the rulers of Wallachia in the 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the Voivodal Palace and the St. Anton Church (the coronation church).
- “King Michael I” Park / Herăstrău – the largest landscaped park, Cișmigiu Gardens – the oldest public garden.

### ALBA COUNTY



- Alba-Iulia (county capital) – the Alba Carolina Citadel - the most important Vauban type fortification in Romania, the National Union Museum.
- The Fortified Church of Călnic and the Dacian Fortress of Căpâlna – UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Part of the Apuseni Natural Park with the Scărișoara Glacier – the largest underground glacier in Romania and the second largest in the world.
- Râmeț Monastery – one of the oldest religious monastic settlements in Transylvania.
- The Wine Road.

### ARAD COUNTY



- Arad (county capital – city of palaces) – the Administrative Palace, the Cultural Palace, the Arad Museum Complex, the Red Church, the “Saint Anthony of Padua” Roman Catholic Church, the new Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, the Mureș Waterfront.
- The Moneasa Balneary Resort (the Pearl of the Apuseni Mountains) – mesothermal waters.
- The Hodoș-Bodrog Monastery (1177) – one of the oldest monastic institutions in Romania
- The Șoimoș Medieval Fortress – a scenic viewpoint overlooking the Mureș Valley.

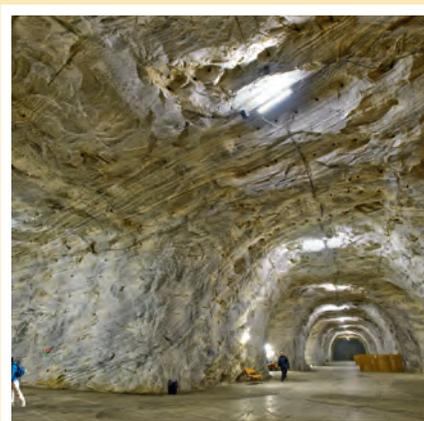
- The Wine Road with the Miniș/Ghioroc Museum of Vine and Wine.
- Pitești (county capital – city of tulips) – the Argeș County Museum, “Saint George’s” Church, Saint Friday Church, Trivale Dendrologic Park.
- The Poenari Fortress – a favourite refuge for Vlad the Impaler (the inspiration for Dracula). To access the fortress one must climb 1,480 steps.
- Brătianu Manor – Florica Villa from Ștefănești – one of the most beautiful boyar domains in Romania.
- Curtea de Argeș – the first capital of Wallachia. Curtea de Argeș Monastery is a masterpiece of the Byzantine Romanian architecture.
- Transfăgărășan Highway – 152 km, known as the most spectacular mountain road in the world. It runs alongside the picturesque Lake Vidraru.

## ARGEȘ COUNTY



- Bacău (county capital) – “George Bacovia” Memorial House, the Princely Court where the “Saint Precista” Fortified Church is located, “Ion Borcea” Natural Sciences Museum Complex, “Iulian Antonescu” Museum Complex, the recreation island.
- Slănic Moldova Balneary Resort – Moldova’s Pearl.
- Târgu Ocna Balneary Resort, the deepest salt mine in Romania (240 m). Inside one can find the Church of St. Varvara – the only church in Europe made entirely of salt and the Salt Museum.
- The Manor of the famous Rosetti-Tescanu boyar family from Tescani – a section of the George Enescu National Museum. Here the composer George Enescu completed his lyrical masterpiece, the opera Oedipus.

## BACĂU COUNTY



- Oradea (county capital) – the Oradea Fortress – the best preserved Renaissance citadel of Central Europe, the Criș Country Museum, Union Square with the Black Eagle Palace – the emblem of Oradea.
- Baile Felix Balneary Resort – the largest spa resort in Romania, thermal waters.
- Part of the Apuseni Natural Park which contains the Bears’ Cave – one of the most beautiful in Romania.
- The Living Fire Glacier, Cetățile Ponorului Cave.
- Stâna de Vale Mountain Resort.

## BIHOR COUNTY



- Bistrița (county capital) – The Medieval Fortress from the 13th century, the Evangelical Church, the Coopers' Tower, the House of Guilds, the Church from the Crown, the Bistrița-Năsăud Museum Complex, Silver House.
- The Tihuța Pass – one of the most difficult road passes that offers spectacular scenery of the Rodnei, Suhard, Călimani and Bârgăului Mountains.
- Colibița and Sângerz-Băi Resorts – known for the curative potential of natural factors.
- The “George Coșbuc” Memorial House and “Liviu Rebreanu” Memorial Museum.
- The “Saxon House” Museum (Livezile) – a Saxon house representative of the Saxon civilization in Northern Transylvania.

- Botoșani (county capital) – the Old Centre, the “Mihai Eminescu” Park, St. George Church, Uspenia Church, Popăuți Monastery, the “Grigore Antipa” Memorial House, the “Nicolae Iorga” Memorial House, “Ștefan Luchian” House Museum, the County Museum, “Saint Mary” Armenian Church.
- The Voivodes' Road (Rădeni-Baisa) – a historical route used by the Moldavian rulers to travel between Iași and Suceava.
- Vorona Monastery – the place where Patriarch Teoctist (1986-2007) entered at a young age into the a monastic life.
- Dorohoi – the “George Enescu” Memorial Museum, the Princely Church Ensemble, the Museum of Natural Sciences, St Nicholas Church.

- Brașov (county capital) – medieval city renowned for the Black Church, Piața Sfatului (the Council Square), Strada Sforii (Rope Street) – one of the narrowest in Eastern Europe, its bastions, the Brașov Fortress, the County Museum of History, the Brașov Opera House, the Ethnography Museum, St. Nicholas Church which hosts the first Romanian School and Șcheii Brașovului.
- Mountain resorts: Poiana Brașov and Predeal.
- Bran Castle – renowned for its association with Vlad III the Impaler (Dracula) and the Royal Family of Romania.
- Fortified Churches: Prejmer and Viscri – UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Medieval Fortresses: Rupea, Râșnov, Făgăraș, Feldioara.

### BISTRIȚA-NĂSĂUD COUNTY



### BOTOȘANI COUNTY



### BRAȘOV COUNTY



## BRĂILA COUNTY



- Brăila (county capital) – the Old Town, “Archangels Michael and Gabriel” Church, the Public Clock, the Fluvial Railway Station, the “Carol I” Brăila Museum, the Kinetic Fountain, Brăila Fortress, the Danube Waterfront, Monument Park, the Public Garden, memorial houses.
- The Small Island of Brăila Natural Park – a miniature version of the Danube Delta.
- The Lacul Sărat Tourist Resort (Salty Lake) – it contains one of the most important salt deposits in Romania. Within St. Panteleimon Monastery one can find a wooden church, built in the Maramureș style, with a 24 meter high bell tower.

## BUZĂU COUNTY



- Buzău (county capital) – the Communal Palace, the Buzău Episcopal Complex, the “Nativity of the Mother of God” Church-Greci, Banului Church, the Buzău County Museum, Câng Park.
- Vulcanii Noroiși, Berca (the Muddy Volcanoes) – a geological and botanical reservation extended on 62.5 ha, a lunar landscape with miniature craters.
- The prehistoric caves (Năeni) – in which traces of ash, bones, ceramic objects and cave drawings from the Neolithic were discovered. Sărata-Monteoru Resort – salty waters.
- The Wine Road.

## CĂLĂRAȘI COUNTY



- Călărași (county capital) – the Palace of the Prefecture, “Saint Nicholas” Orthodox Cathedral, the Lower Danube Museum, the Municipal Museum, the Zoo, the Water Tower, the Danube Waterfront, the Dumbrava Park, beaches on the Danube.
- Red Valley Lake (Mitreni) – water rich in salt, sulphides, sodium and sapropelic mud.
- Negoești Monastery Church and the Church of the Monastery of Plătărești – historical monuments of religious architecture, founded by the ruler Matei Basarab and his wife, Elina.
- Ciocănești Island, Haralambie Island and Șoimul Island Natural Reserves located along the Danube – picturesque landscapes.

## CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY



- Reșița (county capital) – the Museum of Highland Banat, the Steam Locomotive Museum, the Cultural Palace, the “Ion Crișan” Zoo, the Kinetic Fountain.
- Bigăr Waterfall – known as one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the world.
- Băile Herculane Spa Resort – the Roman baths date back to 153 AD, some of them are still functional today.
- The Oravița-Anina railway – the oldest mountain railway in Southeastern Europe (1863), which crosses 14 tunnels and 10 viaducts.
- Rudăriei Valley – the place with the largest number of functional water mills in south-eastern Europe.

## CLUJ COUNTY



- Cluj-Napoca (county capital) – the National Museum of Transylvanian History, the Museum of Art, the Transylvanian Ethnographic Museum, the “Alexandru Borza” Botanical Gardens, St. Michael’s Roman Catholic Church, the Metropolitan Cathedral, Central Park, the “Matthias Corvinus” Memorial House.
- Turda salt Mine – one of the most impressive underground tourist attractions in the world.
- Turzii Gorge – spectacular karst landscape. The area is famous for rock climbing.
- Gherla (Armenopolis) – the baroque city of the Armenian community in the Middle Ages.
- Nicula Monastery – renowned school of iconography on glass.

## CONSTANȚA COUNTY



- Constanța (county capital) – the Black Sea Waterfront and the Casino, the Museum of National History and Archeology, Ovid Square with the statue of Ovid, the Natural Sciences Museum Complex.
- All resorts on the Romanian Black Sea Coast: Mamaia, Mamaia Nord – Năvodari, Mangalia, Eforie Nord, Eforie Sud, Costinești, Neptun, Olimp, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Techirghiol, Cap Aurora.
- Ancient cities founded by the Greeks – Histria, Tomis, Callatis and the Roman triumphal monument of Adamclisi – a representative monument of provincial Roman imperial art.
- The cave of Saint Apostle Andrew – considered the first place of worship in Romania, where it is said that the Apostle Andrew, the protector of Romania, lived for a while.
- Dervent Monastery – the oldest monastic settlement on the territory of Romania, with origins in the period when the region was first Christianized, known for the Curative Holy Crosses.

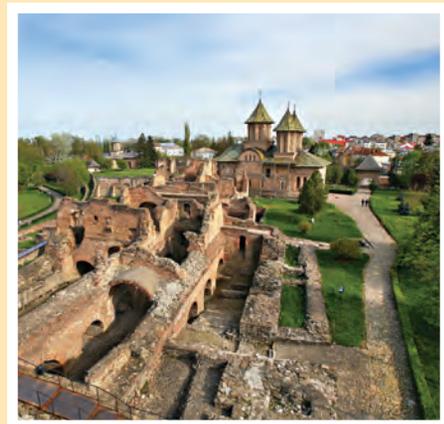
## COVASNA COUNTY

- Sfântu Gheorghe (county capital) – the fortress with the Fortified Reformed Church, the Szekely National Museum, the National Museum of the Eastern Carpathians, the “Saint George” Orthodox Church.
- Land of Manors – 160 manor houses and castles, many of which operate as guest houses or museums.
- Târgu Secuiesc – unique historical center in Central Europe due to the inner courtyard network that surrounds the central square of the city.
- Covasna Balneary Resort – mineral waters, mofettes.



## DÂMBOVIȚA COUNTY

- Târgoviște (county capital – the Fortress of 33 Voivodes) – the “Princely Court” National Museum Complex, the Metropolitan Church, Stelea Monastery, Chindia Park and the Metropolitan Park, the Zoological Garden.
- The Brâncovenesc Palace Ensemble in Potlogi – 1689, founded by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu.
- Bucegi Natural Park – the Sphinx and Babele (the old women), Ialomița cave and Monastery, Bolboci Lake, Tătarului Gorges (stone formations that have developed apparent human forms due to wind erosion, located at an altitude of over 2200 meters).
- The Neagra Bison Reserve (Bucșani).
- Transbucegi or Babele Road (old women’s road) – picturesque road that winds through the mountains toward the Bucegi Plateau.



## DOLJ COUNTY

- Craiova (county capital) – the Old Centre, the Nicolae Romanescu Park, the Botanical Gardens, the Craiova Romanian Opera House, the Oltenia Museum – Ethnography Section – Băniei House, the Musical Fountain.
- Fortified houses (culă): Cernătești and Brabova – semi-fortified buildings specific for the 18th-19th centuries.
- „Amza Pellea” Memorial House (Băilești) – one of the most famous Romanian actors.
- Sadova Monastery – built at the beginning of the 16th century and fortified by Matei Basarab in 1640. In 1693 Constantin Brâncoveanu founded a monastic infirmary (a hospital beside a monastery).
- Wine-growing region.



- Galați (county capital) – “Holy Precista” Fortified Church - the oldest historical monument, serving both as a place of worship and a defensive fortress, the “Răsvan Angheluță” Museum of Natural Sciences, the Navigation Palace, the Museum of Visual Art – the first Romanian contemporary art museum, the Danube waterfront, which is the longest promenade along the Danube.
- Lake Brateș – one of the largest lakes in Romania, with an area of 24 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Buciumeni Monastery – one of the oldest monastic settlements in the county, dating from the first half of the 15th century.

- Târgu Jiu (county capital) – the Sculptural Ensemble of Constantin Brâncuși – which is a homage to the Romanian heroes of the First World War, the “Alexandru Ștefulescu” County Museum of History and Archeology, the “Holy Voivodes ” Church, the “Holy Apostles Peter and Paul” Church.
- Polovragi Cave – according to legend, it is where Zalmoxis, the supreme god of the Dacians lived; Muierii Cave (The Woman’s Cave) – the first electrified cave in Romania.
- Fortified Houses: Curtișoara/Bumbești Jiu, Glogova, Cartiu.
- Novaci – a city located at the southern end of the Transalpina Highway (142 km), the tallest road in Romania.

- Miercurea Ciuc (county capital) – the Franciscan Monastery of Șumuleu Ciuc – one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Székelys, the Mikó Fortress with the Székely Museum of Ciuc, the Palace of Justice.
- Lake St. Ana – the only lake in Central-Eastern Europe formed in the crater of an extinct volcano.
- The Red Lake Resort – scenic lake formed as a natural dam where you can see the traces of a sunken forest.
- The fortified church in Dârjiu – UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Băile Tușnad Balneary Resort (mineral waters, mofettes), tourist resorts: Borsec (mineral waters) and Praid (salt mine).

## GALAȚI COUNTY



## GORJ COUNTY



## HARGHITA COUNTY



## HUNEDOARA COUNTY



- Deva (county capital) – the medieval fortress, the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization, the statue of Decebalus, the “Dormition of the Mother of God” Orthodox Church, the Gymnastics Champions’ Alley, the Musical Fountain.
- The Gold Museum in Brad – the largest collection of native gold pieces in Europe.
- Geoagiu-Băi Balneary Resort – mesothermal waters.
- Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa – capital of the Roman province of Dacia.
- The Dacian fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains: Sarmizegetusa Regia – the political and religious capital of the Dacian kingdom, Costești-Cetățuie, Costești-Blidaru, Piatra Roșie, Bănița (UNESCO World Heritage Sites).
- Corvin Castle – the most important gothic-style monument in Romania.

## IALOMIȚA COUNTY



- Slobozia (county Capital) – the National Museum of Agriculture – the only museum of its kind in Romania, the “Holy Voivodes” Monastery – the oldest monastic settlement in the Bărăgan Plain.
- Amara Balneary Resort – Amara Lake with salt water and sapropelic mud.
- Balaciu Monastery – built on the foundation of a former Geto-Dacian temple.
- “Piscul Crăsani” Archaeological Complex (Balaciu) – the first Neolithic settlement in Wallachia with a fortification system. On top of the ruins of the initial settlement the Geto-Dacian people erected a large urban establishment that had the Helis fortress as its centrepiece.

## IAȘI COUNTY



- Iași (county capital) – the Palace of Culture, the “Moldova” National Museum Complex, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Three Holy Hierarchs Monastery, the “Anastase Fătu” Botanical Garden, the Copou Park, the Great Synagogue – the oldest Jewish place of worship in Romania.
- Cuza Palace from Ruginoasa – the summer residence of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza.
- The Cucuteni Archaeological Reserve – this is where the first vestiges of the Cucuteni-Tripolia culture were discovered, which is one of the oldest civilizations in Europe (5,200-3,200 BC). Also, this is the site where a Geto-Dacia tumular necropolis dating from the 4th century BC was unearthed.
- The Wine Road and the Museum of Vine and Wine from Hârlău.

## ILFOV COUNTY

- Mogoșoaia Palace (Brâncovenesc style/Romanian Renaissance – 1702) – built by the Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu.
- Lake Snagov – recreation area. On the island one can find one of the first voivodal patronages in Wallachia, Snagov Monastery (1408).
- Căldărușani Monastery – one of the largest and oldest Orthodox monasteries in Wallachia, founded by the Prince Matei Basarab; Cernica Monastery – the monastic complex stretches on two of the islands of Cernica Lake.
- The second largest spa in Europe (Balotestii).



## MARAMUREȘ COUNTY

- Baia Mare (county capital) – Stephen’s Tower, the County Museum of History and Archeology, the County Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art, the “Victor Gorduza” County Museum of Mineralogy.
- Sighetu Marmăției – the Maramureș Village Museum, the Maramureș Ethnographic Museum, the Memorial of the Victims of Communism and of the Resistance, the Museum of Jewish Culture from Maramureș found in the Elie Wiesel Memorial House.
- The Merry Cemetery of Săpânța and the Săpânța-Peri Monastery – the tallest wooden church in the world.
- The Bârsana Monastery and the UNESCO Wooden Churches: Bârsana, Budești, Desești, Ieud, Plopiș, Poienile Izei, Rogoz, Șurdești.
- Borșa Mountain Resort – entrance gate to the Rodna Mountains National Park. The Horses’ Waterfall – the tallest waterfall in Romania (90 m) is situated nearby.



## MEHEDINȚI COUNTY

- Drobeta-Turnu Severin (county capital) – the ruins of the Roman settlement and Trajan’s Bridge – one of the greatest achievements of Roman engineering, the Iron Gate Region Museum, the Water Castle, the ruins of the Severin Medieval Fortress, the “Theodor Costescu” Cultural Palace.
- The Iron Gates Gorge on the Danube (the longest and most spectacular gorge in Europe) – the Big Boilers, the Small Boilers, Tabula Traiana, Mraconia Monastery, the rock sculpture of Decebalus – the tallest rock relief in Europe.
- The Ponoarele Karst Complex – God’s Bridge – one of the few natural formations of its kind in the world; the lilac forest – the largest botanical reservation of its kind in Romania.

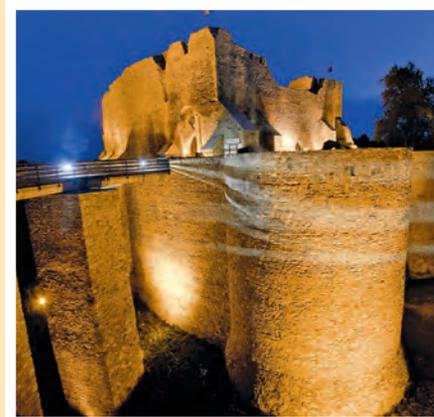


## MUREȘ COUNTY



- Târgu Mureș (county capital) – The Palace of Culture, the Roses' Square, the medieval fortress with the Reformed Church, the Toldalagi Baroque Palace, the Mureș County Museum.
- Sighișoara – medieval citadel listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, the birthplace of Vlad III the Impaler (the historical inspiration for Dracula).
- Saschiz Fortified Church – UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Sovata Balneary Resort – Lake Ursu is one of the largest heliothermal salty lakes in Europe.
- The Defileul Mureșului Superior Natural Park with the Deda-Toplița Gorge.

## NEAMȚ COUNTY



- Piatra Neamț (county capital) – St. John the Baptist Church, Stephen The Great's Tower, the Princely Court, the Cucuteni Neolithic Art Museum, the Petrodava Dacian Fortress.
- The Neamț Medieval Fortress – part of the Moldovan fortifications' system.
- Mount Ceahlău – considered the holy mountain of the Romanian people, the site of an annual phenomenon unique in the world – the Shadow of the Pyramid.
- Monasteries: Agapia, Văratec, Pângărați, Neamț.
- The Vânători Neamț Natural Park – the only place in Europe where bison live in freedom, semi-freedom and on the reservation.

## OLT COUNTY



- Slatina (county capital) – Clocociov Monastery, the Olt County Museum, the Strehareț Hermitage, the Olt Bridge (1891) – the first metal bridge in Romania to cross a river.
- The Ancient Fortress of Sucidava (Corabia) – a Geto-Dacian settlement and later a Roman city.
- Caracal – the Princely Court – residence of the rulers Michael the Brave, Matei Basarab and Constantin Brâncoveanu, the Romanați Museum, the “Constantin Poroieneanu” Park, the “Iancu Jianu” Memorial House.
- Brâncoveni Monastery – built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, restored and fortified later by Voivode Matei Basarab.
- The “Traian Zorzoliu” Boianului Plain Museum (Drăgănești Olt) – the Gumelnița archeopark.

## PRAHOVA COUNTY



- Ploiești (county capital – the city of black gold) – The National Petroleum Museum and the “Nicolae Simache” Clock Museum - unique in Romania, the “Hagi Prodan” Târgoveț House Museum, churches founded by Michael the Brave and Matei Basarab.
- Sinaia mountain resort – Peleş Castle – one of the most famous castles in Romania, the former residence of the kings of Romania.
- Bușteni Mountain Resort – The Heroes’ Cross on Caraiman (the tallest metal cross placed on a mountain peak – 2,291 m) and the Cantacuzino Palace.
- Slanic Prahova Balneary Resort – Slanic saline is the largest in Europe and it boasts the cleanest air on the planet, the Salt Museum.
- The Wine Road.

## SATU MARE COUNTY



- Satu Mare (county capital) – the County Museum, the “Dormition of the Mother of God” Orthodox Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Reformed Church “With Chains”, the Great Temple Synagogue, the Fire Tower.
- Károlyi Castle (Carei) – one of the most beautiful castles in Romania.
- The Oaş Country Museum (Negrești-Oaş) – with Dr. Mihai Pop Art Gallery and the Oșenesc Village Museum.
- Tășnad resort – thermal waters.
- The Wine Road

## SĂLAJ COUNTY



- Zalău (county capital) – The County Museum of History and Art, the Episcopal Cathedral, the Reformed Churches, the Transylvania Building.
- Porolissum – capital of the Roman province Dacia Porolissensis, one of the largest Roman archeological sites in Romania.
- The “Vasile Fati” Botanical Garden in Jibou.
- The Dragons’ Garden – a set of rock formations with bizarre shapes.
- Strâmba Monastery (Hida) – one of the oldest and most famous monasteries in the county, with the old Romanian school (among the first in the country).

## SIBIU COUNTY

- Sibiu (county capital – European Cultural Capital in 2007) – the ASTRA National Museum Complex, the Brukenthal National Museum, the Bridge of Lies, the Council Tower, the Evangelical Cathedral.
- Păltiniș mountain resort – the highest altitude mountain resort in Romania (1.442m) and the oldest (1894).
- Ocna Sibiului Balneary Resort (the Transylvanian seaside) – saline lakes.
- Mărginimea Sibiului – a pastoral area comprising 18 localities situated at the foot of the Cindrel and Lotru Mountains.
- UNESCO fortified churches: Biertan and Valea Viilor.



## SUCEAVA COUNTY

- Suceava (county capital) – the Seat Fortress of historical Moldova, Saint George Church (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the Bukovina Village Museum, the Bukovina Museum.
- Churches with outdoor frescoes, UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Arbore, Pătrăuți, Humor, Sucevița, Moldovița, Probota, Voroneț.
- The Vatra Dornei Balneary Resort (Bukovina's pearl) – mineral waters, thermal spas, mofettes, therapeutic mud, ski slopes.
- Ciocănești – the museum commune, traditional national motifs carved on the facades of houses.
- Transrarău – a spectacular road that connects the Bistrita Valley with the Moldavian Valley.



## TELEORMAN COUNTY

- Alexandria (county capital) – the County Museum, St. Alexander's Cathedral, the marble pedestrian road.
- Memorial houses of important writers: Marin Preda at Silistea Gumești, Zaharia Stancu at Salcia and Gala Galaction at Didești.
- Coșoteni (Coșoteni / Vedea) Monastery – one of the oldest and most important churches in the county, founded by Matei Basarab on the site of an older church built by Negru Voda. This is where the first school in the county was opened.
- The Medieval Turnu Fortress (Turnu Măgurele) – part of the defensive system of Wallachia.
- Troianu Forest Nature Reserve – known for the Romanian peony.



- Timișoara (county capital) – European Cultural Capital in 2021 – the Banat National Museum, the Timișoara Museum of Art, the Banat Village Museum, Victory Square, Freedom Square, Union Square, Timișoara Fortress (Vauban type).
- Buziaș Balneary Resort (one of the most important in western Romania) – mineral waters, mofettes.
- Lugoj – the Iron Bridge, the Minorities’ Church, the “Dormition of the Mother of God” Church, the Museum of History and Ethnography.
- The Church of Miron’s Spring Monastery (the Voroneț of Banat) – the Cave of Românești, that hosts concerts and recitals of classical music, jazz, blues, rock or electronic music.
- Wine-growing area.

### TIMIȘ COUNTY



- Tulcea (county capital) – the Danube Delta Ecotourism Museum, North-Dobrogean Cultural Heritage Museum Complex, the Danube Waterfront, the Independence Monument.
- Ancient and medieval fortresses: Enisala, Aegyssus, Dinogetia, Halmyris, Noviodunum, Troesmis, Argamum.
- Măcin Mountains National Park – the oldest mountains in Romania.
- The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO World Heritage Site) – the second largest delta in Europe and the richest in biodiversity.
- The paleo-Christian Basilica of Niculițel (370 A.D.).

### TULCEA COUNTY



- Vaslui (county capital) – the “Beheading of John the Baptist” Church – founded by Stephen the Great, the Princely Court, the “Stephen the Great” County Museum, Copou Park.
- The equestrian statue of Stephen the Great – placed of the site of the important of Battle of Vaslui (the battle of the High Bridge).
- „Emil Racoviță” Memorial House – a scientist and member of the Romanian Academy who set the foundations of biospeology.
- Bârlad – “The Dormition of the Mother of God” Royal Church, the “Vasile Pârvan” Museum.
- Huși (the town between the vineyards) – the Eparchial Museum, the Bishopric of Huși – with its church built by Stephen the Great, the “Dimitrie Cantemir”
- Memorial Museum, the Viticulture Museum – the first in the country.

### VASLUI COUNTY

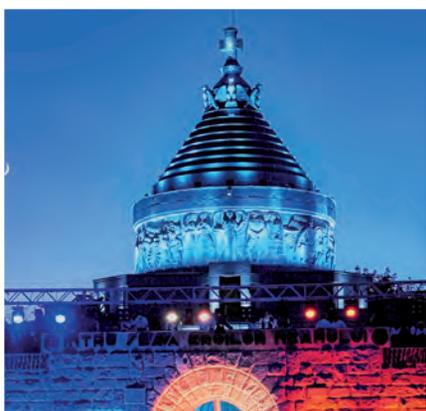


## VÂLCEA COUNTY



- Râmnicu Vâlcea (county capital) – the “Simian House” Art Museum, Zăvoi Park, the Vâlcean Village Museum (Bujoreni).
- Balneary resorts: Olănești and Călimănești-Căciulata Baths and Govora Baths.
- Historical monasteries: Hurezi (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Cozia, Govora, Bistrița, Arnota, Surpatele, One Wood Monastery.
- Horezu Resort – famous for its pottery tradition (UNESCO intangible cultural heritage).
- Cozia National Park, Buila-Vânturarița National Park.

## VRANCEA COUNTY



- Focșani (county capital) – the Vrancea Museum, the Union Monument – located on the old border between Moldova and Wallachia, the Landmark, the “Major Gheorghe Pastia” Popular Athenaeum, the Museum of the Union.
- Mausoleums of Mărășești, Mărăști, Soveja and Focșani.
- Soveja Resort (Vrancea’s Pearl) – mineral waters.
- Natural Reserve The Living Fire Natural Reserve (Andreiașu de Jos) – a natural phenomenon produced by the emanations of natural gas from the earth, which is ignited by the in the sun’s rays.
- The Wine Road.



# About ROMANIA

## ✓ LOCATION:

South-east Europe, in the north of Balkan Peninsula  
Geographic coordinates: 45° N, 25° E.

## ✓ ACCES:

Hungary (north-west), Ukraine (north and east),  
Republic of Moldova (east), Black Sea (south-east),  
Bulgaria (south), Serbia (south-west).

## ✓ TOTAL AREA:

238.391 km<sup>2</sup>

## ✓ THE LENGTH OF FRONTIERS:

3,149.9 km, of which 1085.5 land frontiers and  
2064.4 km river and maritime.

## ✓ POPULATION:

19.310.216 (2017)

## ✓ CAPITAL:

Bucharest, 1.883.400 inhabitants (2017)

## ✓ FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

Republic

## ✓ OFFICIAL TIME:

Eastern European Time (GMT + 2). From the last  
Sunday of March (31<sup>st</sup>) to last Sunday of October (27<sup>th</sup>)  
is Romanian Summer Time (GMT + 3).

## ✓ LEGAL HOLIDAYS:

January 1, January 2 – New Year; January 24 – Day  
of the Union of the Romanian Principalities; April  
14 – Good Friday; April 16-17 – Orthodox Easter  
2023; May 1 – Labor Day; 1 of June, children's Day,  
June 4 (Sunday) - Pentecost, June 5 (Monday) – The  
second day of Pentecost; August 15 – Dormition of  
the Mother of God; November 30 – Saint Andrew;  
December 1 – Romania's National Day; December 25,  
December 26 – Christmas

## ✓ CLIMATE:

Continental

## ✓ LANDFORMS:

Romania presents a varied and proportionally  
balanced relief which includes: 35% mountains  
(Carpathians), 35% hills and plateaus  
(sub-Carpathians hills and plateau of Transylvania)  
and 30% plains: Romanian Plain (Câmpia Română)  
and West Plain (Câmpia de Vest).

## ✓ ELEVATION:

*Lowest Point:* Black Sea – 0 m;  
*Highest Point:* Moldoveanu Peak – 2,544 meters

## ✓ MEASUREMENT UNITS:

Metric system

## ✓ EMERGENCY CALL:

112

## ✓ EUROPEAN STATUTE:

Romania has been a member of the European  
Union since January 1, 2007. Also part of the UN,  
International Monetary Fund, European Council,  
NATO, UNESCO and has embassies and consulates in  
many countries.

## ✓ CURRENCY:

1 leu (abbreviation: RON) = 100 bani

## ✓ FLAG:

Three equal bands, vertical, in red, yellow and blue,  
with the blue band near the stick.

## ✓ NATIONAL DAY:

December 1<sup>st</sup>. Historical Significance: Unification Day  
of Romanians from Transylvania and Banat with the  
homeland, celebrated on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918.

## ✓ CREDIT CARDS:

Major hotel and restaurants chains accept credit cards,  
including MasterCard, Visa, American Express and  
Dinner Club.

## ✓ CONSUMER PROTECTION:

National Consumer's Authority  
021-9551 | cabinet@anpc.ro | www.anpc.gov.ro

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