

ROMANIAN DEFENCE 2025

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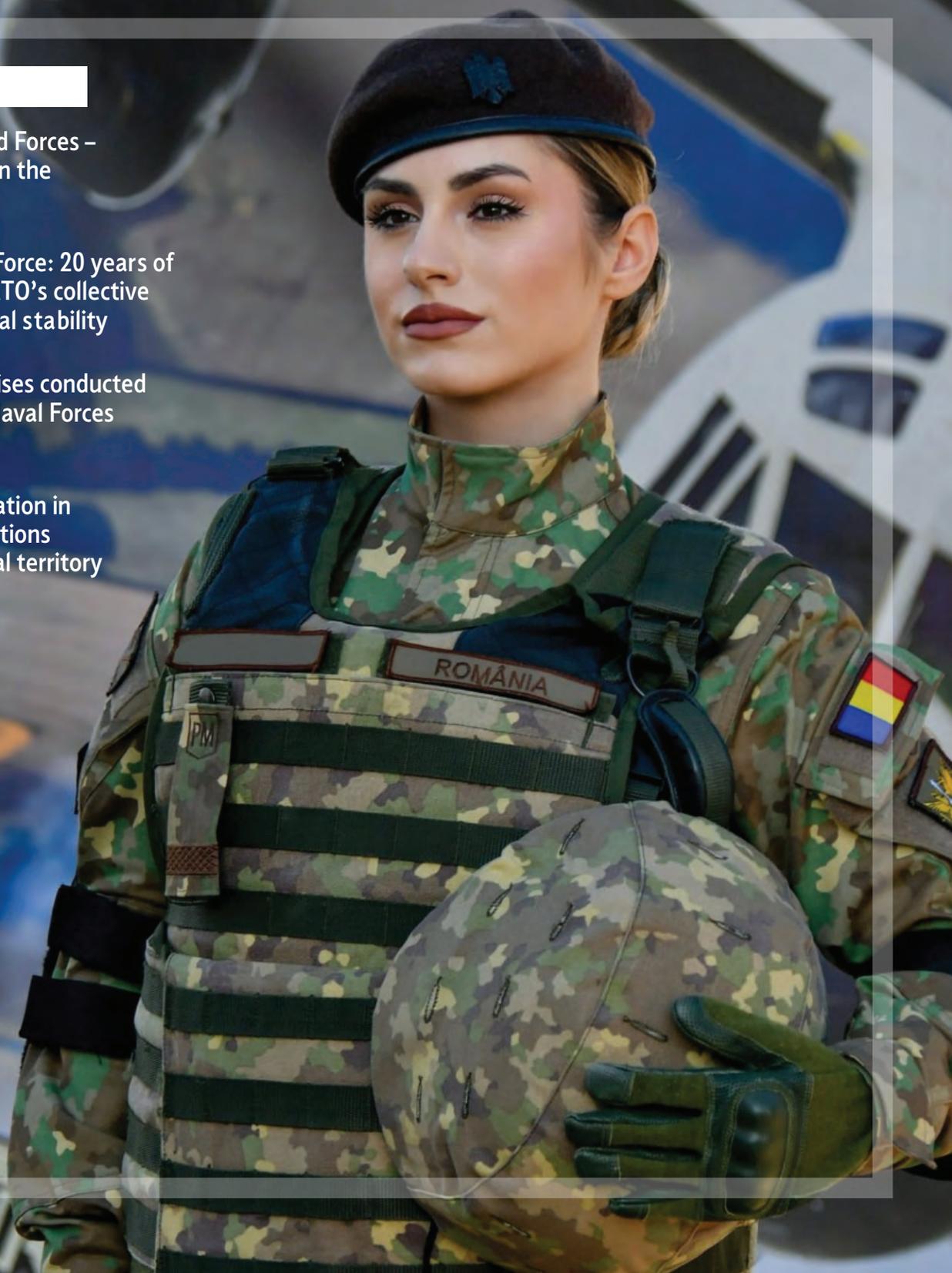


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ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES' COMMITMENT in 2025: Defending National Integrity and Contributing to Euro-Atlantic Security

As we step further into 2025, the Romanian Armed Forces remain fully committed to defending national sovereignty, contributing to Allied deterrence and defence, and actively supporting stability across the Euro-Atlantic area.

The regional and global security environment continues to be deeply affected by the illegal and unprovoked war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. This conflict not only threatens the rules-based international order, but also reinforces the urgency of consolidating collective defence and ensuring credible deterrence along NATO's Eastern Flank.

In this context, Romania has significantly strengthened its defence posture, both nationally and within Allied framework. In line with the National Security Strategy, the White Paper on Defence, and NATO's evolving strategic priorities, our efforts are focused on building a modern, agile, and combat-ready force, capable of responding rapidly to the full spectrum of conventional and hybrid threats.

OUR PRIORITIES IN 2025 INCLUDE:

- ✓ Enhancing our forces' readiness and interoperability through large-scale national and multinational exercises, such as *STEADFAST DART 25*, *DACIA 25*, *SEA SHIELD 25*, *DACIAN SPRING 25* and *SABER GUARDIAN 25*;
- ✓ Ensuring the full operational capability of the NATO Forward Land Forces Battle Group Romania;
- ✓ Accelerating modernization programs, supported by the 2.5% of GDP allocated to defence, with a strong emphasis on advanced technologies, drone warfare capabilities and integrated C4ISR systems;



General
Gheorghiță VLAD
Chief of Defence Staff

- ✓ Advancing the implementation of NATO's New Force Model and the decisions adopted at the Madrid and Vilnius Summits, especially in the context of the Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area Family of Plans;
- ✓ Updating our doctrinal and training frameworks to reflect modern warfare requirements, multi-domain operations, and lessons learned from ongoing conflicts.

In parallel, we continue to strengthen our institutional resilience in line with Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty. A credible defence begins at home, with robust national capabilities that are fully integrated into NATO and EU structures. This includes not only technological readiness, but also human readiness.

People remain at the core of our defence strategy. The recruitment, training and retention of highly skilled personnel is a national priority, as we strive to

increase the manning levels of our force structure and ensure its long-term sustainability. Promoting the military profession, fostering leadership and supporting professional development are essential pillars in building a resilient, future-ready force.

The complexity of today's threats requires more than strength, it demands unity, adaptability and foresight. The Romanian Armed Forces are actively engaged in contributing to Allied decision-making processes, multinational capability development initiatives, and NATO- and EU-led operations. We understand our role, not only as a regional security provider, but also as a reliable partner and Ally committed to peace, deterrence and collective security.

As Chief of Defence Staff, I am confident that Romania will continue to be a pillar of stability in the Black Sea Region and a steadfast contributor to Euro-Atlantic security. We will stay the course, prepared, determined, and united.



ROMANIA'S PARTICIPATION in the EU initiatives

Romania's commitment to the democratic values can be easily observed by the high number of resources dedicated to collective defence, while maintaining a stable security climate in the adjacent regions of the European Union. One of the most important objectives, in terms of foreign policy for Bucharest, is to increase its role in the international alliances and organisations. This is done by actively participating and even leading different multinational initiatives.

Romanian mainly focuses on Eastern Partners and Western Balkans, which are of strategic importance for Bucharest, taking into consideration the geographical aspect. The relevance of this region is also reflected in the national operational commitment, both within NATO and the EU, which makes Romania one of the most significant contributors in this area.

EUFOR Althea remains an important part of EU's comprehensive efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), a critical EU operational contribution to security and stability in the Western Balkans. Romania took over the command of EUFOR Althea forces on January 21st, 2025. Romania remains committed to supporting the local authorities in maintaining a safe and stable environment. In light of the latest political developments in the region, with possible security implications, Bucharest considers it important to keep the Western Balkans on the international agenda and further support the European perspective of its concerned countries.

The separatist leader of Republika Srpska (RS), Milorad Dodik, started a secessionist campaign in the RS because of the sentence given by the BiH High Court, with the aim of creating an autonomous territorial entity that would protect him from legal consequences.

Romania is very active in complex geopolitical regions where most of the NATO and EU missions and operations are conducted, contributing with personnel and military equipment.



Acting President
Ilie Bolojan's visit
to EUFOR Bosnia-
Herzegovina Military
Operation ALTHEA

Given the current security situation in the Western Balkans, the Romanian Ministry of National Defence deployed, in March, a new company within the Intermediate Reserve Force of EUFOR Althea.

Moreover, Romania contributes to all Common Security of Defence Policy military missions and operations according to a 360-degree approach. In Central African Republic, Bucharest assumed the command of EUTM RCA in October 2023 and it will continue to contribute troops (including the Mission Force Commander and the force protection for this mission) until September 2025. Taking into consideration the EU objectives in Africa, this mission is vital for increasing security and stability in the region, because it ensures the most needed training for officers and non-commissioned officers of the RCA forces.

Moreover, Romania is present in the EU Training Mission in Somalia and EU

Military Assistance Mission in Mozambique. It also participates in EUNAVFOR Atalanta, EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and EUNAVFOR Med IRINI maritime security operations. The Romanian Navy periodically contributes with a naval asset to EUNAVFOR Med IRINI. A frigate was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea for one month, in June 2024, and is to be deployed in the second quarter of 2025.

As part of the common initiatives, Romania supports all the defence projects in which our country participates at EU level, such as: PESCO – 23 projects, EDA framework – 29 projects, the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) – within which Romania (ROMARM) cooperates with Germany (Rheinmetall) for building a new gunpowder factory in Romania, the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act (EDIRPA) – in which Romania participates to the joint procurement of

MISTRAL (led by France) and the European Defence Fund (EDF) – 33 projects.

PESCO's role should be highlighted among all these initiatives. PESCO framework represents one of our most valuable defence cooperation platforms at EU level and it is one of the key initiatives that leverages the whole effort dedicated to transforming European defence. For Bucharest, the coordination of the EU Network of Diving Centres (EUNDC) and the CBRN Defence Training Range (CBRN DTR) PESCO projects represent great responsibilities and Romania is fully involved in rendering these two capabilities operational, which can enhance the resilience of our Armed Forces in the force protection and training fields.

Furthermore, a Strategic Review of PESCO is currently underway. In this context, Romania has advocated for: the correlation with the EU financial incentives, the improvement of PESCO Secretariat's role, facilitating the participation of like-minded third states and effective restructuring of the number of binding commitments. It is a unique moment to give the PESCO initiative the strategic relevance it deserves. PESCO should remain the expression of the unity and determination of EU Member States to make progress in addressing capability shortfalls, based on the priorities set by the Strategic Compass, the White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 and considering the renewed capability development priorities and CARD recommendations.



Romanian Detachment at the European Union Training Mission in RCA

HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS SOUTH-EAST – from its inception to the present day

In response to the evolving security dynamics, Romania proposed the creation of a multinational command and control facility on its territory, during the 2018 NATO Summit in Brussels. This initiative aimed to enhance NATO's readiness and presence in the Black Sea Region. Subsequently, the Romanian Parliament approved the establishment of Headquarters Multinational Corps South-East (HQ MNC-SE), in June 2020, with initial operations based in Bucharest. The official inauguration occurred at the Joint National Training Center in Cincu as part of a ceremony, during which HQ MNC-SE commander received the unit's military combat colors from the Romanian President. The structure achieved Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in June 2021, during DEFENDER Europe 21 Exercise, an exercise aiming to validate its operational capabilities and involving 1,000 soldiers.

On July 1st, 2021, HQ MNC-SE relocated to Sibiu, aligning with NATO's strategic emphasis on strengthening the Eastern defence posture. The corps' **Full Operational Capability** was declared on October 23rd, 2023, following STEADFAST JUPITER 2023 Exercise, a milestone accelerated due to regional security developments.

HQ MNC-SE oversees NATO land operations in Romania and Bulgaria. The command structure includes personnel from various NATO Member States, reflecting the Alliance's collective defence principles. HQ MNC-SE's establishment and evolution underscore NATO's commitment to adapting its defence structures in response to emerging security challenges, ensuring a robust and unified presence in the South-Eastern region of the Alliance.

The corps' emblem features green and blue backgrounds, symbolizing land operations and NATO's core values. Central to the design is a NATO compass rose flanked by a double-headed axe and a saber, representing sovereignty and combat readiness. The three stars denote the command's rank, while the Romanian flag signifies its role as the framework nation. The motto "**FORTIS IN UNUM**" ("Strong Together") encapsulates the unity and strength of the Alliance.

Throughout time, HQ MNC-SE actively engaged in several key exercises to enhance its operational readiness and interoperability with NATO Allies; these exercises underscore HQ MNC-SE's commitment to maintaining high operational standards and fostering robust cooperation within the North Atlantic Alliance.

HQ MNC-SE's major training event, **Loyal Leda 2025 (LOLE25)**, brought together more than 500 service members from HQ MNC-SE, along with experts of the Romanian Armed Forces and NATO structures who took part in the training activities, conducted during the computer-assisted / command post exercise LOLE25, organized over 4 -13 March in Sibiu and other locations across the Alliance. LOLE25 was an opportunity for the headquarters to demonstrate its ability to coordinate and integrate multinational forces in a complex operational environment. Participation in this exercise allowed HQ MNC-SE personnel to test their decision-making procedures, improve their interoperability with Allied structures, and adapt to the dynamics of a multi-domain combat scenario.

A landmark event for NATO land operations at tactical level, the **Land Corps Commanders conference (LC3)** was hosted by HQ MNC-SE in September 2024. On this occasion, our headquarters welcomed in Sibiu more than 100 commanders and senior officials from approximately 30 NATO military structures, as well as Chiefs of the Land Forces and the Joint Forces Commands from Romania and Bulgaria. The event served as a platform for debates on land command and control, operational planning, readiness and effective integration of land forces within NATO's strategic framework.

HQ MNC-SE hosted its first **"Open Gates Day"** on April 4th, 2024. The event raised the interest of more than 1,200 visitors – community members and their families. Attendees had the opportunity to explore military equipment and interact with Allied and Romanian service members, ensuring a stronger bond between the military and the local community.

Recognizing the importance of strategic communications, HQ MNC-SE hosted the inaugural **Strategic Communications Conference** from April 10th to 12th, 2024, in Sibiu. The event brought together over 35 experts from academia, NATO entities, and international organizations to discuss and share



Exercise Carpathian Arc 24

Open Gates Day



best practices in the field, enhancing the Alliance's communication strategies.

HQ MNC-SE continues to play a pivotal role in NATO's defence strategy, ensuring the Alliance's readiness and cohesion in the South-Eastern region. The command's ongoing participation in multinational exercises and community events underscores its dedication to operational excellence and building strong community ties.

HQ MNC-SE's strategic location, operational readiness and commitment to fostering interoperability significantly bolster NATO's defence posture in South-Eastern Europe, contributing to the broader security and stability of the continent.





The ROMANIAN LAND FORCES – acting as a shield on the Eastern Flank

The Romanian Land Forces were established 153 years ago. Together with 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 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 recently, with PATRIOT surface-to-air missile system. The revival began by increasing transportation and maintenance capacity, as well as updating communications and information systems. The mobility, firing capability, compatibility and interoperability of the Romanian Land Forces are presented as indicators of the



PIRANHA III

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 armor-mine MRAP, 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: 4X4 URO VAMTAC vehicle; HMMWV vehicle; 8X8 PIRANHA III C armored personnel carrier;

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, logistic bases, communication centers, combat and logistic 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 Staff, located during peacetime in the capital Bucharest.

Headquarters Multinational Division South-East (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 Operational 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, the United States and Romania, which is the framework nation. The multinational structure includes formations and units, including the HQ Multinational Brigade South-East, one of the most modern capabilities of the Romanian Armed Forces. The Headquarters of the Multinational Brigade South-East, located in Craiova, 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 safety 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) to 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”.

2nd Infantry Division “Getica”. The large tactical level unit, based in the Buzău, 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 city, 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 “Getica” consists of an armored brigade, two mechanized 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.

4th Infantry Division “Gemina” is a large tactical unit, established in the historical capital of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca. Currently, the area of responsibility of the 4th “Gemina” Infantry Division covers the northern half of the country. The missions of the 4th “Gemina” Infantry Division are in accordance with the provisions of the North Atlantic Alliance and includes, 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 4th Infantry Division aim both at improving the individual and collective skills of the military personnel, as well as at increasing 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 4th 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.

18th Surveillance – Research Brigade “Decebal” covers a wide range of missions in ground, air and naval environments. The brigade consists of reconnaissance & surveillance, mountain reconnaissance-surveillance, depth reconnaissance, air defence, sensor and logistics support battalions. Therefore, the soldiers 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 18th 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 small unit of the brigade is also permanently ready to intervene in NATO KFOR operations in Kosovo and EU ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



“Roza Cercetașilor” military competition

8th Mixed Artillery Brigade “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” is a large land force artillery unit, subordinated to the Land Forces Staff, located in Focșani. The 8th 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 small unit, three combat units, a combat support unit and a logistics support unit.

10th 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 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.

2nd Logistic Base “Valahia”. Since its establishment in 2002, 2nd Logistic Base “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 “Getica” Joint National Training Centre. This large unit, located in Cincu area, Braşov County, supports the training of national, allied and partner forces at 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 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 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 firing sessions with individual or group/crew armament, up to platoon level, as well as helicopter firings.

1st CIMIC Battalion is the only military unit within the Romanian Army specialized in the field of civil-military cooperation. The unit performs three basic



Exercise Fire Shield

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 CIMIC Battalion 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 on the Ivory Coast, DR Congo, Georgia, Liberia and Sudan.

The 265th 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.

The 495th “Captain Ștefan Soverth” Parachute Battalion was created on November 30, 1990, the 495th Special Missions Battalion, subordinate to the 2nd Parachute Brigade. On May 3, 1996, the battalion was given the honorary name of “Captain Ștefan Soverth”, and on May 17, 1996, the unit received the Battle Flag, subsequently undergoing several restructurings and names, the last transformation taking place on January 1, 2018, holding current name of the 495th Parachute Battalion “Captain Ștefan Soverth”. Throughout its 30 years of existence, the 495th Parachute Battalion “Captain Ștefan Soverth” has participated in numerous domestic and international missions, annually performing international exercises with similar structures from England, Bulgaria, Portugal, Slovakia, Turkey, Poland, the USA, etc.



Cadets of “Ștefan cel Mare”
National Military High School

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 of the national defence 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. 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 of 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

Troops, Communications and Information, Technology, 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.

“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

Afghanistan. Between 2002–2020, the Romanian Land Forces, along with other formations of the Romanian Armed Forces, have contributed with 30,000 troops 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.

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. By rotation, the Iraqi partners benefited 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.



Graduation Ceremony at Land Forces Academy

Under the EU mandate, in the Western Balkans, the Romanian 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 more than ten Romanian air defence contingents to Poland.

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



Exercise Swift Response 24

interoperability exercises, alongside representatives of other NATO member countries or partners.

In 2024, the Romanian Land Forces' soldiers took part in a series of exercises meant to test their physical and mental endurance capabilities. These activities were conducted throughout the entire training year, starting from the lowest level – team- and ending with FTXs in a multinational context alongside soldiers of NATO member countries.

SWIFT RESPONSE 24

Romania was at the center of a large-scale deployment of forces, hosting one of the most important sequences of Multinational Exercise SWIFT RESPONSE 24, part of the DEFENDER 24 training platform, planned by the United States European Command (USEUCOM) and led by the US Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF). In total, more than 5,000 troops from seven NATO and partner countries trained together during the exercise, of which approximately 2,000 were paratroopers.

The Romanian Armed Force deployed over 2,300 soldiers, including 120 paratroopers, as well as approximately 200 technical assets, demonstrating its firm commitment to the Alliance. This effort was supported by the involvement of the Land and Air Forces' units, and other structures acting in the National

Defence, Public Order and National Security System, reflecting the cohesion and interoperability among state institutions.

At the same time, the exercise included one of the largest airborne operations conducted on European territory since the end of World War II. French, German, Romanian, Spanish, American and Dutch forces participated in this spectacular setting. C-17 Globemaster III, A-400M Atlas, C-130 Hercules, CASA CN 235 and C-27J Spartan, as well as NH90, Sikorsky CH-53, Black Hawk, Eurocopter Tiger, CH-47 Chinook, IAR 330 M Puma and IAR 330 Puma SOCAT helicopters are some of the aircraft operated in this exercise. F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jets added to these aircraft, while over 300 vehicles were mobilized, of which 121 were armored, including 20 "Wiesel" armored fighting vehicles used by airborne troops.

The German Schnelle Kräfte (DSK) Division from Germany, the 11th Airborne Brigade from the Netherlands, the US 82nd Airborne Division, the French 11th Airborne Battalion, and the Spanish 2nd Airborne Battalion were some of the forces participating in the exercise conducted in Romania. The host country contributed with forces of the Joint Forces Command, the Land Forces Staff, the Air Forces Staff, the MoND Medical Directorate, the 4th "Gemina" Infantry Division, the 81st "General Grigore Bălan" Mechanized Brigade, the 10th "Lower Dunărea" Engineer Brigade, the 71st "General Emanoil Ionescu" Air Base, the 90th "Otopeni" Air Transport Base and the 495th "Ștefan Șoverth" Parachute Battalion.

SWIFT RESPONSE 24 was coordinated by the United States Army V Corps and was integrated into QUADRIGA SOUTH, DACIA 24 and SPRING STRIKE national exercises. The exercise took place over March 28-31 and was part of the largest US military training exercise conducted in Europe in the recent decades, bringing together over 40,000 soldiers from 20 allied and partner countries.

The DEFENDER 24 training platform, which also includes SABER STRIKE 24 and IMMEDIATE RESPONSE 24, was designed to enhance NATO's rapid response and defence capabilities, as well as the cooperation among the participating states' armed forces. SWIFT RESPONSE 24 was also linked to exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER 24 – the largest exercise of the North



Exercise Wind Spring 24

Atlantic Alliance, simulating the joint effort to respond effectively to any threat to Euro-Atlantic security. By hosting and actively engaging in SWIFT RESPONSE 24, Romania reaffirmed its strategic position in the region, as well as its firm commitment to collective defence and NATO's core principles.

WIND SPRING 24

In May, the 81st "General Grigore Bălan" Mechanized Brigade conducted "Wind Spring 24" Field Training Exercise, a major training activity that was integrated into "Swift Response 24" allied Exercise. By engaging over 1,500 soldiers and more than 360 technical means of equipment, the exercise represented a substantial

effort towards achieving the operational objectives established for this training phase.

In an environment characterized by the volatility of the modern battlefield, the participating structures covered a full range of tactical situations, from defensive combat in trenches to offensive actions in urban environments. The exercise focused on the development and improvement of the soldiers' tactical skills, providing a real framework for testing the resilience, adaptability and rapid reaction capabilities of the forces.

Thus, NATO Battle Group Romania (Forward Land Forces Battle Group – France) and the National Army of the Republic of Moldova also trained alongside the



Exercise Justice Eagle 24.1

Romanian military structures. This training format combines the possibility of increasing the interoperability level with the exchange of operational experience and the enhancement of cooperative relations within the North Atlantic Alliance and the Partnership for Peace.

The activities were conducted for three weeks both in the “Getica” Joint National Training Center, in Cincu and in the Bogata Training Range in Turda. The goals of the exercise was to develop the ability to plan, organize and conduct operations at the 81st Mechanized Brigade subordinate headquarters, as well as to train the forces in complex tactical scenarios, similar to those specific to contemporary conflicts. At the same time, the exercise aimed to increase trust and transparency among the participating structures, enhance multinational cohesion and improve field action procedures.

The exercise ended on May 23 and was marked by a dynamic LFX (Live Fire Exercise), during which live firings with light and heavy infantry weapons, artillery

systems, as well as air force support fire were planned, integrated and executed.

By organizing and conducting “Wind Spring 24”, the 81st Mechanized Brigade reconfirmed its high readiness level and ability to integrate into a multinational operational framework.

JUSTICE EAGLE 24.1

On March 8, 2024, the soldiers of the 9th “Mărășești” Mechanized Brigade conducted, in Babadag Secondary Combat Training Center, a CALFEX-type complex training activity (Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise), as part of Justice Eagle 24.1 Multinational Exercise. The exercise brought together Romanian and Moldovan forces in a joint tactical framework, which represented a new stage in the enhancement of the bilateral military partnership.

The activity aimed at effectively integrating live firings with light and heavy weaponry, executed in tactical conditions close to the battlefield reality. By

planning and synchronizing the combined arms warfare specific actions, the exercise provided the opportunity to validate combat procedures and tactical response under operational stress conditions, emphasizing coordination between maneuver and fire support structures.

The presence of the soldiers from the Republic of Moldova brought value-added to the training process, through the exchange of experience and adaptation to a common operational language.

The final evaluation confirmed the achievement of the objectives set for this training stage and represented a significant step towards the enhancement of bilateral defence cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

EAGLE THUNDER 24

Multinational Exercise “Eagle Thunder 24” was conducted over February 5-11, 2024, in the Cincu training facilities, a tactical activity that brought together forces of the NATO Battle Group Romania, including Belgian and French soldiers, alongside detachments from Romania, Portugal and the Republic of North Macedonia, all under the coordination of the Headquarters Multinational Brigade South-East.

The exercise involved over 680 Allied soldiers, trained in an operational framework that simulated joint combat actions. Participants had to face a variety of challenges according to tactical scenarios, including trench warfare, urban actions, rappel training techniques, as well as

individual weaponry firings and use of fire systems mounted on armored platforms.

The purpose of this multinational exercise was to enhance military cooperation among different allied nations, engaging most of the NATO allies present in Romania.

SCORPIONS LEGACY 24

“Getica” Joint National Training Center, in Cincu, hosted “Scorpions Legacy 24” Multinational Exercise planned and led by the Headquarters Multinational Brigade Southeast between June 10 and 24, 2024. The activity brought together approximately 1,600 soldiers, most of them Romanians assigned to the 20th “Dolj” Infantry Battalion, the 22nd “Romași” Infantry Battalion, 26th “Neagoie Basarab” Infantry Battalion, 325th “Alutus” Artillery Battalion, the 116th “Iancu Jianu” Logistic Support Battalion as well as the Mobile Gendarmerie Group from Craiova. Soldiers from Belgium, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland and Portugal participated in the exercise alongside the Romanian ones.

ZIMBRU 24

The soldiers of the 15th “Podu Înalt” Mechanized Brigade from Iași participated in the two-week “Zimbru 24” Exercise, one of the most important joint training events of the large Moldovan unit, conducted in the

Exercise Eagle Thunder 24





Exercise Scorpions Legacy 24

Smârdan Secondary Combat Training Center. With the participation of approximately 1,000 soldiers, including volunteer reservists, and over 170 technical assets, the exercise represented a good opportunity to evaluate and verify the training level and readiness of the brigade's structures.

Thus, the standard operating procedures for planning and conducting the tactical operation were validated, ensuring the functionality of the command posts for the smooth running of the military decision-making process and maintaining an efficient information flow in support of the military decision-making. In the field, the soldiers applied the orders of higher echelons and put into practice specific tactical procedures, demonstrating cohesion and efficiency even in adverse weather conditions.

Year 2024 introduced, for the first time, an urban training module and a close cooperation with ROL 2 medical treatment formations of "Dr. Iacob Czihaç" Military Emergency Clinical Hospital in Iași, as well

as with the soldiers of the 95th "Erou Căpitan Aviator Alexandru Șerbănescu" Air Base in Bacău. These collaborations consisted in air support, research, surveillance and MEDEVAC missions, supported by IAR-99 Șoim and IAR-330 SOCAT aircraft that flew over the skies of the training area and helped fulfill the missions of the brigade's battalions.

Infantrymen, artillerymen and tank crewmen performed tactical maneuvers, including live fire exercises and the use of Spike missiles, professionally adapting to the difficult weather conditions of Smârdan Firing Range. Despite the challenges posed by the terrain and weather conditions, the soldiers demonstrated perseverance and dedication throughout the exercise.

It is also worth mentioning the degree of involvement of the newly recruited soldiers to the brigade structures, for whom "Zimbru 24" represented the first serious field training test, providing them with an experience that would prove valuable throughout their careers. At the

same time, the ability to integrate the forces and equipment of the various structures of the large unit into a joint, coordinated and efficient effort was also highlighted.

FIRE SHIELD 24

The soldiers of the 335th “Alexandru cel Bun” Artillery Battalion, Botoșani, subordinate to the 15th “Podu Înalt” Mechanized Brigade, participated, over August 19-23, alongside soldiers of the National Army of the Republic of Moldova and those of the United States of America, in “Fire Shield 24” Multinational Exercise, which aimed to foster operational skills of a multinational structure, a particular importance being given to increasing interoperability and cooperation among the participants.

The training activities were conducted intensively, both during the day and at night, in conditions simulating real combat. On August 22, during the Distinguished Visitors Day, the exercise provided a show of force attended by officials from the Republic of Moldova, the Commander of the North Carolina National Guard, as well as representatives



.....
Exercise Zimbru 24

of the United States Embassy in the Republic of Moldova.

“Fire Shield 24” is part of an annual series of joint training exercises conducted for artillery structures, organized according to an agreement signed in 2012

.....
Exercise Sarmis 24





Exercise Sarmis-Olt 24

between the Governments of Romania and the Republic of Moldova. This program represents a substantial pillar of bilateral collaboration, significantly contributing to increasing professionalism, interoperability and defensive capabilities.

SARMIS-OLT 24

Approximately 2,000 soldiers of the 2nd “Sarmizegetusa” Mountain Troop Brigade and the 61st “General Virgil Bădulescu” Mountain Troop Brigade, alongside allies from Belgium, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Turkey and the United Kingdom, conducted the “SARMIS-OLT 24” Multinational Exercise between September 30 and October 11, in the Brădet, Grohotiș, Valea Doftanei and Trăisteni Training Areas. The Romanian Air Force supported the efforts of the mountain troops and the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs – represented by “Nicolae Titulescu” County Gendarmerie Inspectorate in Brașov, Brașov

Mobile Gendarmerie Group, as well as by “Țara Bârsei” Emergency Situations Inspectorate in Brașov. This conglomerate of forces acted as a unitary structure demonstrating an increased degree of interoperability between NATO allies and national partners in the defence and public order system.

The camps located in isolated areas, a defining characteristic of the mountain combat environment, projected conditions simulating real combat. The exercise integrated complex training sequences, including live ammunition firing, tactical defensive and counter-offensive actions, as well as joint air-ground missions. A ROL-2 medical formation was deployed in support of the forces in the field, consisting of personnel from the “Regina Maria” Military Emergency Hospital in Brașov and “Dr. Alexandru Augustin” Military Emergency Hospital in Sibiu. An electronic warfare detachment of “Maresal Alexandru Averescu” Military Intelligence Brigade and a multifunctional drone company subordinate to 42nd “General de divizie Traian Moșoiu” Communications and Information Technology

Base also participated in the exercise.

The conduct of STX-type stages at the platoon level, followed by an FTX exercise at brigade level, offered the soldiers, in addition to the specific training, the opportunity to use the each nation's weaponry.

WISE FORESIGHT 24

“Wise Foresight 24” Bilateral Exercise conducted at Újdörög Training Area in Hungary, brought together Romanian and Hungarian military personnel for a week as part of the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the Romanian and Hungarian Armed Forces. The partnership between the two states, consolidated over 26 years of military collaboration, maintains its applicative and pragmatic character, being oriented towards the development of joint response capabilities in the context of peacekeeping missions.

The emphasis was placed, during the exercise, on joint training, the integration of modern combat means of equipment – including drones and helicopters – as well as on conducting actions in complex conditions, both during the day and at night.

Soldiers of the 81st “General Grigore Bălan”, Mechanized Brigade, specialists of 421st “Lieutenant Mihai Milea” Communications and Information Technology Center, as well as crews of 712th “Giarmata” Helicopter Squadron also took part in the exercise. The exercise was based on the structure of the Romanian-Hungarian Mixed Peacekeeping Battalion, established in 1998, currently consisting of the 191st “Colonel Radu Golescu” Infantry Battalion from Romania and the 2nd Infantry Battalion from Hungary.

EAGLE SAPPER 24

The opening ceremony of “Eagle Sapper 24” Multinational Engineer Exercise took place at “Tătărești” Automated Firing Range, in Satu Mare. The



.....
Exercise Wise Foresight 24

event marked a new revealing moment in the process of enhancing international military cooperation with the aim to increase interoperability between engineer structures within the North Atlantic Alliance.

This edition of the exercise brought together soldiers of the 52nd “Tisa” Engineer Battalion of the 10th “Dunărea de Jos” Engineer Brigade, along with Belgian and French detachments acting in the NATO Battle Group Romania deployed to Cincu. The participation of these forces reflected NATO’s duties for security and stability on the eastern flank, as well as for the development of a joint rapid reaction capability that can adapt to the new challenges.

The goals of “Eagle Sapper 24” Exercise were to improve the ability of engineer units to act jointly in complex tactical scenarios, by simulating real missions and creating human connections. During the training process, the participating structures conducted activities such as: ensuring mobility by opening access routes, building temporary infrastructure and carrying out controlled demolition works. All of this not only tested the troops’ training level, but also enhanced cohesion between the mixed teams, strengthening mutual trust and the ability to cooperate.



The ROMANIAN AIR FORCE: 20 years of commitment to NATO'S collective security and regional stability

The 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 Force has proved 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; mission accomplishment 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. The acquisition of this platform 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 into 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.



.....
F-16 Fighting Falcon



.....
Romanian C 130 Hercules airlift aircraft



.....
Romanian C 27 J Spartan medium-sized aircraft

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 carried out 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. carries out logistic support, air raid and medical evacuation missions. This type of aircraft entered the Romanian Air Force's service starting 1996.

The **C-27J Spartan** 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 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.

Antonov An-26 plane was initially known as the An-24 T, but it was equipped with Ivchenko engines, more powerful and having a completely redesigned rear fuselage to accommodate a sizeable hatch. Originally intended for the transport of goods with parachute capabilities, the aircraft can be easily adapted to the transport of passengers, MEDEVAC or to the transport of paratroopers.

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, 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 1970, being the first reactive aircraft

designed and manufactured entirely in Romania. The first prototype conducted the first flight on December 21st, 1985. IAR-99 is a fully metallic aircraft, simple from a constructive point of view.

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 AIR FORCE STRUCTURE

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 and the Warrant Officer and NCO School, Military High School and the National Training Center for GBAD, including the AF firing range.

The main mission of **86th AIR FORCE BASE** is to defend the airspace in the South-East area of 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 the Romanian Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft

began conducting the Air Policing missions, under NATO command.

The missions of **71th AIR FORCE BASE** are: discovering, identifying and combating illicit acts of 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 air transport of troops, aerial research of areas or districts, ensuring and maintaining the availability of the infrastructure and utility elements of the airfield.

The **95th 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



.....
IAK-52 aircraft

.....
IAR-99 ȘOIM aircraft





Students of "Henri Coandă"
Air Force Academy

local authorities during emergencies and ensure flight training of pilots.

The **"MIHAIL KOGĂLNICEANU" 57th AIR FORCE BASE** 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 **90th AIRLIFT BASE** performs air transportation missions for the Romanian Air Force and other elements of the National Defence System, both in the national airspace and in crisis or 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 **70th ENGINEER CENTER** provides engineering support and EOD to the Air Force units, state institutions or local authorities. The 70th Engineering Center participated with personnel and equipment in several engineering support missions in different places.

The **76th 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 **74th PATRIOT REGIMENT** was established on December 1st, 2018. The establishment of the new unit has been an important step in creating the missile capability of the Romanian Armed Forces, the 74th PATRIOT Regiment being the first structure holding the newest configuration of the ground-to-air missile system.

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING 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 to become 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;
- ✓ academic programs, postgraduate studies.

The education and training units are the Air Force Academy, the Aeronautical Personnel Training Base, the "Traian Vuia" Air Force WO & NCO Military School,



Students of “Traian Vuia” Air Force WO and NCO Military School

the “Mihai Viteazul” National Military College 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 from the desks of the **“MIHAI VITEAZUL” NATIONAL MILITARY COLLEGE**, where the students 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 more than 7,200 graduates.

“HENRI COANDĂ” AIR FORCE ACADEMY is a higher military education institution, located in Brasov,

whose mission is to train the officers licensed for the basic branches of the Air Force and other beneficiaries.

The **AERONAUTIC PERSONNEL TRAINING BASE**. After completing the studies of the Air Force Academy, all graduates must attend a 6–12 month basic course 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 education and training institution is **“TRAIAN VUIA” AIR FORCE WO & NCO MILITARY SCHOOL**. Located in Boboc, it is the only institution that develops WOs and NCOs for the Air Force and 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 required support from Romania to perform extended Air Policing tasks within the Readiness Action Plan framework. The missions have been conducted in a safe and highly professional manner.

EFTC – EUROPEAN F-16 TRAINING CENTER

Building upon the resolutions established during the NATO Summit in July 2023, Romania proudly serves as the host nation for the European F-16 Training Center established at the 86th Air Base in Borcea.

Functioning as a pivotal international hub for F-16 pilot training, the center is strategically designed to enhance interoperability among allies. Simultaneously, it plays a crucial role in fostering common operational standards and enhancing the North Atlantic Alliance's capabilities to address the intricate challenges prevalent in the Black Sea region and Eastern Europe.

Pursuant to the terms outlined in the collaborative agreement, the Romanian Ministry of Defence extends its support by providing the 86th Air Base,

training facilities, and host nation support. The Royal Netherlands Air Force provides the F-16 aircraft, while the Lockheed Martin Company assumes responsibility for supplying instructors and maintenance services. The European F-16 Training Center in Romania assumes a vital role in the comprehensive training of Romanian pilots, ensuring that the nation's air force undergoes training at the highest standards. This collaborative effort emphasizes Romania's unwavering commitment to collective defence and NATO's security objectives.

On November 7, the inaugural set of five Dutch F-16s executed a flawless landing at Air Base 86, marking the commencement of their deployment for the pilots' training at the center.

"In this facility, we're molding the future cadre of F-16 pilots. It's not just about initiating rookies into the world of F-16s; we're conducting refresher courses for seasoned F-16 pilots as well. This encompasses everything from formation leader courses for two and four aircraft formations to courses leading to the coveted flight instructor qualification. Given the prevailing geopolitical landscape, especially along NATO's eastern frontier, this center is a welcome addition. We take great



European F-16 Training Center

pride in Romania and, by extension, the 86th Air Base hosting this critical endeavor. The instructors steering this center are former military pilots coming from NATO member nations. These are battle-tested, operational aviators boasting extensive flight hours, and there's a wealth of knowledge we can glean from them. We're optimistic that this collaboration will be mutually beneficial for all parties involved," the Head of the European F-16 Training Center stated.

The formal inauguration of the European F-16 Training Center was marked by a ceremony attended by the Minister of National Defence, Angel Tîlvăr, alongside the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Daniel Petrescu, and the Chief of the Air Force Staff, Lieutenant General Viorel Pană. Also Ambassadors of Denmark, the Netherlands, the United States and Ukraine, along with representatives from the American aerospace company Lockheed Martin also attended the ceremony.

Minister Tîlvăr emphasized, "Our air force benefits from the pinnacle of training, enhancing its readiness against any potential threat. The center assumes a pivotal role in the training of Romanian F-16 pilots, extending beyond mere operation to encompass the full spectrum of these high-performance aircraft." He elaborated on the training of a "significant number of pilots" and the "intense" pace of training, highlighting the acquisition of "new qualifications for those already operating the F-16 in Romania." Additionally, Minister Tîlvăr disclosed ongoing assessments for the most effective integration methods for the training of Ukrainian pilots.

"We are commencing our training with Romanian pilots, but our objective extends to the training of Ukrainian pilots as well. This is imperative as the Netherlands, alongside partner countries Denmark and Norway, is gearing up to deliver F-16 to Ukraine. Urgently bolstering our air force is a top priority, and training initiatives are already underway in Denmark and the USA. I am thrilled that we now have this European center," declared the Dutch Minister of Defence, Kajsja Ollongren, who was present at the inaugural event.

The Romanian government has initiated a memorandum, approving a budget exceeding 450 million RON for "establishing and operating the pilot training facility dedicated to F-16 aircraft operations at the 86th Borcea Air Base." This financial allocation

encompasses various necessities such as ammunition, travel expenses for both domestic and international missions, specialized protective and operational gear, security services, maintenance of military equipment, utilities including water, energy, and gas bills, as well as expenditures for fuels and lubricants essential for the equipment.

This groundbreaking project, a pioneering initiative at European level, signifies a significant milestone for the Romanian-Dutch cooperation and serves as a tangible manifestation of allied solidarity. Concurrently, it promises to expedite the training process for Romanian pilots tasked with operating the F-16 aircraft acquired by Romania from Norway, soon to be integrated into the Romanian Air Force's inventory.

ROMANIA RECEIVES THE FIRST THREE F-16 AIRCRAFT PURCHASED FROM NORWAY

On November 29, 2023 the first three F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft purchased by Romania from the Kingdom of Norway landed at the 86th "Lieutenant Aviator Gheorghe Mociorniță" Air Base, in Borcea. The reception ceremony of the fighter aircraft was attended by Romanian, Norwegian and American officials.

The acquisition of the new batch of F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and the related package of goods and services will ensure the increase of Romania's security through the execution of missions designated to defend the national/NATO airspace during peacetime and crisis situations, by the Permanent Air Police Combat Service under NATO command.

Brigadier General Valeriu Roșu, the Deputy Chief of the Department for the Liaison with the Parliament and the Personnel's Welfare, emphasized the importance of the "Multirole Aircraft of the Air Force" Program and specified that, in a dynamic and particularly complex security context, the completion of the Romanian Air Force's equipping process with the second and third squadrons of F-16 aircraft will further strengthen international partnerships, by "becoming a model of collaboration and solidarity among Allies, in the consolidated effort to counter the challenges posed in the region".

According to the Concept for the gradual building of the air defence capability, within the "Air Force Multirole

Aircraft " Program, the Government of Romania awarded the Government of the Kingdom of Norway the contract for the purchase of 32 F-16 aircraft, with initial logistical support and a package of complementary goods and services (from the Government of the United States of America). The aircraft that were and will be delivered must be operable, with their available

of the Romanian Air Force. This solution ensures the involvement of the national defence industry in the maintenance and modernization works of F-16 aircraft, through Aerostar Bacău Company.

So far, the Romanian Air Force has received 18 F-16 aircraft, the last two arriving in the country on May 22nd, 2025, at the 71st "General Emanoil Ionescu" Air Base, in Câmpia Turzii.

A NEW C-130 HERCULES FOR THE ROMANIAN AIR FORCE

Through the Excess Defence Articles Program, the Romanian Air Force received a third C-130H2 Hercules military transport aircraft at no cost. This program enables the United States to donate or transfer surplus military equipment to allied or friendly nations with minimal or no financial burden.

The donation of the C-130H Hercules aircraft signifies a manifestation of solidarity and enduring collaboration in the field of security between Romania and the United States. It underscores their mutual commitment to regional stability and security, emphasizing the U.S. recognition of Romania as a strategic partner and a key ally within NATO. This initiative supports Romania's ongoing efforts to modernize its defence capabilities. The second C-130H Hercules aircraft was delivered on September 15, 2023, followed by the third in November. An American mobile training team conducted training sessions at the 90th Airlift Base, collaborating with the Romanian crew to acquaint them with the new onboard equipment. Currently, the Romanian Air Force operates four C-130B transport aircraft and three C-130H aircraft.

The C-130H Hercules is a versatile and dependable transport aircraft with the capability to execute various missions, including airlift, medical evacuation, humanitarian assistance and disaster response.



F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft

resource ensuring their operation for at least 10 year-transition period to the fifth generation aircraft, which makes the purchase of Norwegian fighter jets a transfer of capability between two allied NATO countries.

The aircraft will ensure the fulfillment of the new existing requirements established at NATO level, and are to be introduced into the modernization program in the same configuration (M6.X) as the F-16 aircraft from the first squadron, which had already entered the service



C-130 Hercules aircraft

20 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO NATO'S COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND REGIONAL STABILITY

Over the past year, Romania's pivotal role as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance was highlighted, as we marked two significant milestones: the 20th anniversary of Romania's membership to the North Atlantic Alliance and NATO's 75th anniversary. Over the past two decades, the Romanian Air Force (ROU AF) has become a cornerstone of both regional and collective security, safeguarding national airspace while also playing an integral part in a wide range of NATO missions worldwide.

ADAPTING TO EVOLVING THREATS

Since Romania joined NATO in April 2004, its air force has witnessed substantial transformation, reflecting both the changing security landscape and Romania's growing responsibilities within the Alliance. The illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 emphasized the

continuing relevance of large-scale conflict on European soil, reminding NATO of the need to remain agile and resilient in the face of new and unforeseen threats.

Romania's geographical position, bridging the Black Sea and the Balkans, has been increasingly significant in the context of the Alliance's Eastern Flank. The Romanian Air Force plays a crucial role in safeguarding not just its national airspace but also contributing to NATO's collective defence. Over the years, Romania has strengthened its position by participating in numerous multinational operations, missions and exercises.

MISSION AND COMMITMENT: A DUAL ROLE

ROU AF's core mission is clear: **defending airspace sovereignty and maintaining its integrity, and providing for airspace control in the area of interest.** As Romania's commitment to NATO goes beyond military readiness, ROU AF extends its missions to humanitarian relief and support to civilian authorities during crises.



IAR-330 SOCAT

This dual role highlights the versatility of the Air Force and underscores its significance in both national and international contexts.

Key accomplishments in NATO missions since 2004 include the deployment of IAR-330 SOCAT helicopters to Bosnia for Operation ALTHEA (2005), leading Kabul International Airport (KAIA) operations (2006, 2011-2012), contributing to Baltic Air Policing with MiG-21 Lancer fighters (2007) and with F-16 (2023), and participating in peacekeeping operations in Mali (2019-2020).

Since its inception in December 2004, EUFOR ALTHEA has served as a cornerstone of the European Union's efforts to maintain peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). This EU-led mission took over from NATO's Stabilization Force (SFOR) and continues to ensure compliance with the Dayton/Paris Agreement, contributing to a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in BiH.

For Romania, EUFOR ALTHEA is more than a stabilization mission; it's an opportunity to demonstrate the professionalism, dedication, and technical expertise of its armed forces. Since Romania's first operational deployment in 2005, its contributions have been pivotal in supporting EUFOR's objectives and reinforcing the values of security and stability in the region.

Romania's contribution to EUFOR ALTHEA began with the deployment of IAR-330 SOCAT helicopters, marking a significant milestone as the first operational deployment of the Romanian Air Force since World

War II. In 2005, Romanian air detachments "ALPHA" and "BRAVO" conducted over 600 missions and accumulated 1,200 flight hours. Operating in the challenging post-conflict environment of BiH, these detachments played a vital role in ensuring mission success.

This legacy is nowadays continued by the DACIAN PUMAS, a detachment that was deployed in January 2025. The unit, consisting of four IAR-330 PUMA helicopters (in L-RM and M variants) and a specialized team of 100 personnel, is based at Butmir Base. The DACIAN PUMAS are actively supporting reconnaissance, transport, and medical evacuation missions, contributing significantly to EUFOR ALTHEA's mission in maintaining a secure environment. The deployment of the DACIAN PUMAS represents a new chapter in this ongoing effort, as Romania continues to play a vital role in one of the EU's longest-running stabilization missions.

In accordance with the North Atlantic Alliance's overarching goals and responsibilities, Romania, as a steadfast NATO member, reaffirms its commitment to collective defence by contributing to the Air Policing Mission over the Baltic States' airspace. This mission underscores NATO's dedication to safeguarding the sovereignty and security of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Building upon Romania's proven track record in such operations, including its 2023 deployment of F-16 Fighting Falcon fighters and the earlier successful MiG-21 LanceR mission in 2007, the Romanian Air Force will once again provide critical air defence assets in 2025. The mission will feature a four-month rotation of Romanian F-16 fighters in key operational sites established and expanded to support NATO Air Policing since the Baltic States' accession to NATO in 2004.

The upcoming deployment is a continuation of NATO's Assurance Measures, initiated in 2014 in response to increased security concerns following Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. By maintaining a persistent Air Policing presence, NATO ensures rapid readiness and operational flexibility, with Romanian fighters standing by to respond to potential airspace incursions or other security threats under the command of NATO's Combined Air Operations Centre UEDEM.

Host Nation support from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania remains essential to the success of this mission, encompassing air command and control capabilities, ground infrastructure, and skilled personnel. Romania's participation reflects its unwavering dedication to the principle of collective defence, contributing not only to regional security but also to the Alliance's cohesion and deterrence posture.

The 2024 mission consolidated Romania's standing as a trusted contributor to NATO's defence structure, demonstrating the Romanian Air Force's tactical expertise and dedication to bolstering interoperability while defending Allied airspace.

TRAINING AND INTEROPERABILITY: BUILDING READINESS

A major pillar of the ROU AF's continued success lies in its investment in training and exercises. Romania's airmen and airwomen routinely participate in multinational and bilateral exercises, noteworthy events in 2024 being represented by AMPLE STRIKE in Czech Republic, APROC in Spain, ANATOLIAN PHOENIX in Turkey and WISE FORESIGHT in Hungary, exercises where our IAR 330 Puma helicopters have trained on CAS, CSAR, SOF missions, STEADFAST NOON in Belgium, TRACIAN VIPER in Bulgaria, INOCHOS and RAMSTEIN FLAG in Greece and REAL THAW in Portugal, exercises during which our F-16 aircraft participated in various missions in order to improve interoperability of all participants and FALCON LEAP in Netherlands and European C-27 J Maintenance Training in Lithuania, during which in the C-27J Spartan aircraft exchanged training concepts, doctrine, and multiple tactics, techniques and procedures specific to the air domain. These exercises are designed to enhance interoperability with NATO allies, ensuring that Romanian forces can seamlessly integrate into NATO's operational framework. Moreover, RAMSTEIN LEGACY 24, NATO's capstone IAMD exercise hosted by Romania in 2024, showcased the

country's role in advancing NATO's air and missile defence capabilities.

In addition to its regular participation in exercises, Romania has focused on modernizing its capabilities and training infrastructure. The establishment of the **European F-16 Training Centre in Romania**, the first project of its kind in Europe, significantly accelerated the country's F-16 program. This facility ensures that Romanian pilots are well-prepared to operate advanced fighter jets, a key asset for both national defence and NATO commitments.

Following efforts to identify appropriate F-16 training solutions for pilots at the level of the Allied States, it has become clear that the existing facilities could not support the training of a large number of pilots in a short period of time. Thus, at the proposal of the authorities of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, negotiations were initiated and carried out for the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) between the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Ministry of National Defence of Romania and the manufacturer of F-16 aircraft, Lockheed Martin, for the organization and operation of an F-16 Training Centre in Romania, which was signed in Toledo on the 29th of August 2023.

According to the cooperation agreement, the Ministry of National Defence, through the Romanian Air Force, provides the training facilities at the 86th Air



F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft

Base “Lieutenant Aviator Gheorghe Mociorniță” in Fetești, including the F-16 training simulator, and the host nation support. The Royal Netherlands Air Force provided 18 F-16 fighter jets, and Lockheed Martin ensured maintenance, operation and training under a service contract.

The European F-16 Training Centre represents an important milestone in the domain of readiness and plays a key role in strengthening the defence capabilities of Romania and its NATO Allies and Partners, while contributing to regional stability. Romania is making a significant contribution in the field of training by hosting the F-16 Training Centre, a centre for the training of pilots from Romania, Allied and Partner countries, including Ukraine, for which work is currently underway to define the technical aspects of their training.

MODERNIZATION AND NEXT-GENERATION CAPABILITIES

The extraordinary cooperation with the U.S. Air Force and NATO Allies such as Portugal and Norway Kingdom help us complete the transition from MiG 21 LanceR to F-16 fighters. The first squadron procured from Portugal is now being upgraded to meet NATO latest requirements. Also, for the 2nd and the 3rd F-16 Squadrons, Romania purchased from Norway Kingdom 32 aircraft, 15 of them having already been delivered.

Additionally, the Romanian Air Force is increasing the its transport capabilities and troops projection capacity by replacing C-130 Hercules aircrafts from variant “B” to “H”, using FMS program. Other procurement programs include the modernization of the C-27J Spartan transport fleet, IAR-330 helicopters and the upgrade of IAR-99 trainer aircraft.

In order to consolidate layered defence architecture, one of the essential procurement programs is HSAM. Seven PATRIOT air defence systems are planned to equip the 7th PATRIOT Regiment. Four fire units have been delivered so far, and one system has been donated to Ukraine in order to support their fight in defending their own territory and population. SHORAD-VSHORAD System capabilities are planned to equip the Air Force units, with the aim to build an integrated, robust,

credible, interoperable and flexible national air defence system. We also intend to develop additional programs to ensure the adequate integration, command and control and target management system.

With respect to Air Surveillance the Romanian Air Force is extending the service life-cycle and upgrading its FPS-117 fixed long-range radar systems, recognized as the world's leading 3D solid-state radars. To strengthen its multi-task surveillance capabilities, the Air Force plans to modernize its AN/TPS-79 radars to meet the latest NATO standards and acquire additional 3D mobile radars.

ROMANIA TAKES HISTORIC STEPS WITH THE PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT

Romania has made a significant leap in advancing its defence capabilities, signing a landmark protocol to air initiate the Romanian Air Force's transition to fifth-generation F-35 aircraft. The deal includes the acquisition of 32 F-35 Lightning II aircraft, marking a pivotal moment in Romania's defence modernization efforts.

The agreement, finalized through a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) between the Romanian and U.S. governments, enables the purchase of the aircraft under the U.S. Foreign Military Financing program. The deal also includes pilot and maintenance training, further enhancing Romania's operational and technical capabilities.

The F-35 is regarded as one of the most advanced multi-role fighter jets in the world, equipped with stealth technology, cutting-edge sensors and unmatched interoperability. This acquisition strengthens Romania's air defence and enhances its contributions to NATO's collective security.

By embracing cutting-edge defence technology, Romania positions itself as a reliable NATO ally and a vital pillar of stability in the region, securing its role on the international stage.

AGILE COMBAT EMPLOYMENT: ENHANCING FLEXIBILITY

To cope with the emergent challenges, we took important measures to implement the **Agile Combat Employment (ACE)** concept, which emphasizes

operational flexibility, rapid deployment, and the ability to conduct operations from dispersed locations. This concept is critical not only for the ROU AF's independent capabilities but also for its role in NATO's collective defence strategy. By ensuring that air forces can operate seamlessly across borders and in various environments, the ACE concept strengthens NATO's deterrence and defence posture on the Eastern Flank.

HUMAN RESOURCES: THE HEART OF THE AIR FORCE

The modernization of Romania's Air Force would not have been possible without the dedication of its personnel. ROU AF has consistently invested in the professional development of its airmen and airwomen, ensuring they are equipped to handle the growing complexity of modern warfare. The Air Force's focus on career development, the high standards of training and recruitment ensures a capable and motivated force that is ready to meet tomorrow's challenges.

A FORCE MULTIPLIER WITHIN NATO

Through participation in Air Policing and enhanced Air Policing Missions, the development of cross-border cooperation agreements with neighboring Bulgaria and Hungary, and the ongoing modernization of its air defence systems, Romania serves as a key force multiplier within NATO's collective security framework. The upcoming transition to F-35 aircraft, coupled with continued investment in training, operational flexibility, and air defence systems, will further consolidate Romania's role within NATO's air and missile defence efforts.

Whether safeguarding the Eastern Flank or engaging in global missions, Romania's Air Force remains unwavering in its dedication to protecting national airspace and upholding NATO's collective defence principles. As General Frank Gorenc, former Commander of NATO's Allied Air Command, said "Airpower is like oxygen. When you have enough, you don't have to think about it. When you don't have enough, it's the only thing you can think about". Romania's expanding its air defence capabilities in order to reinforce NATO's defence and deterrence posture, ensuring strength, readiness, and adaptability against emerging threats.



F-35 Aircraft

A low-angle photograph of three Romanian Naval Forces soldiers in full combat gear, including helmets, goggles, and rifles. They are looking upwards towards a large military helicopter hovering in the sky. A rope is attached to the helicopter, suggesting a hoist rescue or transport operation. The scene is set against a clear blue sky.

Missions and exercises
conducted by the
ROMANIAN NAVAL FORCES

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, providing an outstanding opportunity for our youngsters to join the Romanian Naval Forces at a very early age, and also the Naval Academy, Petty Officers' School and Naval Training School.

There are 8,000 personnel within the Romanian Naval Forces, assigned in more than 40 military units. The Maritime Fleet has almost 20 warships, three frigates (two Type 22R, ex-Royal Navy Type 22 Batch 2, and one Romanian project, "Mărășești"), four "Tetal" class corvettes, three "Tarantul" class missile corvettes, three "Epitrop" class torpedo boats, one "Corsar" class minelayer, one "Sandown" class minehunter, 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 Kogălniceanu" 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 "TA 71M" and riverine fast boats.

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

THE HUMAN RESOURCE – THE MOST IMPORTANT VALUE OF THE ROMANIAN NAVAL FORCES

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 Naval Forces know how to capitalize on one of their most important resources in the field of security, namely the human resource.



Boarding team training



The student's ascent into the ship's rigging

Our educational and training system is made of four institutions, such as “Mircea 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 investment in the future of our institution. At “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy, international military cadets from different countries carried out their studies for one semester alongside the Romanian military students in the Navy’s higher educational institutions, 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 30 seats, of which 15 are foreigners.

The Naval Petty Officers School provides scientific training at post high-school level, trains technicians and managers skilled to maintain, repair and operate systems and systems. Training in nine specialties is provided, as follows: Steering and navigation equipment; Naval gunnery; Naval missiles; Underwater weapons; radio communications and naval surveillance and signal; Naval radars; Electronic underwater equipment; Naval engines and auxiliary machines; Naval electrical engines and equipment. The training lasts two years and 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



“Mircea” Training Ship transiting the Bosphorus

into the military higher educational institutions. The military college is integrated into the national system of education, and has two specializations: Mathematics and Computer Science.

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 Naval Forces, 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 long-life learning process required by nowadays standards.

MISSIONS AND EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY THE ROMANIAN NAVAL FORCES IN 2024

The Romanian Naval Forces represent an important pillar in the architecture of the regional security system and the southeastern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance. With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the Romanian Naval Forces quickly

adapted their activity plans and operational procedures to effectively respond to a various threats posed in the maritime space and in the riverine area of responsibility.

Currently, the Romanian Naval Forces have a capable, flexible and credible structure, which, alongside its Euro-Atlantic partners, significantly contributes to strengthening the level of security in the area of responsibility, by participating in multinational exercises on NATO’s southeastern flank and in EU and NATO operations conducted in the Mediterranean Sea, such as Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI and Operation SEA GUARDIAN, in which “King Ferdinand” Frigate and “Queen Mary” Frigate participated in 2024. Also, the Romanian Naval Forces exerted command of the *Standing NATO Mine Countermeasure Group 2* (SNMCMG-2) for a six month-period, during which the 274 “Vice Admiral Constantin Bălescu” Minelayer carried out specific missions in the Mediterranean Sea.

At the same time, the Romanian Naval Forces participated with ships and personnel in multinational exercises conducted in the Black Sea, in the lagoon area and on the Danube River, under national or allied command. SEA SHIELD, POSEIDON, EP MCM DIVE,



.....
221 „King
Ferdinand”
Frigate
patrolling in the
Mediterranean
during Operation
NATO Sea
Guardian

SEA BREEZE and BREEZE are some of these exercises conducted in these areas.

MONITORING MISSIONS CONDUCTED IN THE BLACK SEA TO ENSURE THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

The Romanian Naval Forces systematically conducted, in 2024, maritime space research activities in the vicinity of the Romanian coastline, in order to identify navigation hazards, especially drifting naval mines originating from the northern area of the Black Sea.

The force package made available by the Romanian Naval Forces for monitoring activities consists of military ships, IAR-330 Puma Naval helicopters, maritime research drones, EOD diver detachments (specialized in countering explosive devices) and a mine

countermeasures data center. The maritime military ships and Puma Naval helicopters have planned monitoring and research activities to be conducted by rotation in order to detect and limit the mine threat and to maintain freedom of navigation in the western part of the Black Sea and on the river.

Other structures of the national defence system, with responsibilities in this field, as well as partners of the North Atlantic Alliance, participate, alongside the Romanian Naval Forces, with in monitoring Romania's area of responsibility maritime patrol aircraft.

The Romanian Naval Forces' maritime area of responsibility includes the territorial waters, the contiguous zone and the exclusive economic area of the Black Sea, consisting in a 30,000 km² surface. From the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine until the end of 2024, Romanian sailors

and military divers have neutralized six sea mines originating from the northern Black Sea.

THE ROMANIAN NAVAL FORCES, PART OF THE MCM BLACK SEA TASK GROUP

In the current security context, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey decided to adopt a coordinated approach to maintain the safety of navigation in the Black Sea. Thus, the Mine Countermeasures Black Sea Task Group (MCM Black Sea Task Group) was created.

On January 11, 2024, during an official ceremony held in Istanbul, Romania signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the MCM Black Sea, with a three year-validity, in a trilateral format. This initiative is important for the safety of navigation in the Black Sea, but also for the strengthening of the allied deterrence and defence posture. It is a concrete result of the cooperation among the three allied riparian states and a solid proof of the joint commitment.

The Romanian Naval Forces participated, throughout July-December 2024, with the 29th "Lieutenant Dimitrie Nicolescu" and 30th "Sub-Lieutenant Alexandru Axente", Minesweepers in the three activations of the naval group and conducted specific monitoring and research missions against naval mines in the Black Sea maritime areas, as well as activities to ensure traffic and freedom of navigation within Multinational Exercises BREEZE 24, NUSRET 24 and POSEIDON 24, organized by the Bulgarian and Turkish Naval Forces.

The command of the MCM Black Sea Task Force will be exerted by the Bulgarian Naval Forces, over January-July 2025, and in the second half of the year by the Romanian Naval Forces.



Boarding team training

Ship formations and maneuvers



Boarding Squad Training





ROMANIA HAS TAKEN OVER COMMAND OF SNMCMG-2 FOR A SIX-MONTH PERIOD

The Romanian Naval Forces exerted the command of the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group Two (SNMCMG-2) for a six-months period through Commander Sebastian Barote, Deputy Commander of the 146th Mining-Demining Division, who exercised this responsibility aboard 274th “Vice Admiral Constantin Bălescu” Minelayer, alongside the Group’s Staff consisting of nine other Romanian soldiers and three officers of partner naval forces.

The Romanian-led Standing NATO Mine Countermeasures Group Two, conducted specific missions in the Mediterranean basin, over July – December 2024, in accordance with the force generation schedule established by Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM).

274th “Vice Admiral Constantin Bălescu” Minelayer commanded by Lieutenant Commander Bogdan Iosif, with a crew of 85 soldiers, travelled over 15,000 nautical miles, for six months. By participating in this mission, the Romanian Naval Forces contributed to meeting our country’s commitment to regional security and enhanced international collaboration with a view of maintaining stability in the Mediterranean Sea area.

30 „Sublocotenent Alexandru Axente” Minesweeper



“QUEEN MARY” FRIGATE, PART OF OPERATION UE EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

“Queen Mary” Frigate participated, for a 30 day-period, in EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI conducted in the Mediterranean Sea.

The mission conducted by the frigate’s crew, made up of 240 soldiers, consisted in ensuring compliance with the UN arms embargo imposed on Libya and countering the illicit trafficking of petroleum products, drugs and people, by monitoring maritime traffic and carrying out inspections onboard commercial vessels in the Mediterranean Basin.

The Romanian Armed Forces’ participation with Naval Forces and Special Operations Forces capabilities

in Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI contributed to enhancing the security situation in the Mediterranean Sea and to supporting the joint effort to end the conflict in Libya, in order to meet the commitments undertaken by our country to the European Union.

“KING FERDINAND” FRIGATE, IN OPERATION NATO SEA GUARDIAN CONDUCTED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

“King Ferdinand” Frigate participated, between October 31 and December 13, in NATO Operation SEA GUARDIAN conducted in the Mediterranean Sea. During its 40-day mission, the ship made stopovers to restore its combat capability in ports in Italy and Greece, as well



Photex as part of SNMCMG-2



Multinational
Exercise
„Sea Shield
24”

as to complete training modules specific to the operation at the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre in Souda, Crete Island (NMIOTC).

By participating in SEA GUARDIAN, the Romanian Naval Forces contribute to fulfilling the commitments undertaken to ensure collective maritime security

and counter-terrorism measures in the Mediterranean Basin.

“King Ferdinand” Frigate was part of the naval group of the operation, together with partner ships from Italy and Croatia, and carried out activities to monitor maritime traffic and counter terrorism at sea. In this regard, Romanian military sailors conducted over 300 interrogations of commercial vessels transiting their area of responsibility, and five of them were also visited in order to promote the operation and the values of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The launch of NATO SEA GUARDIAN Operation was decided at the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, with the aim of strengthening the safety of maritime traffic in the area of responsibility. So far, Romania has participated in six missions carried out under its aegis.

“MIRCEA” TRAINING SHIP – INTERNATIONAL TRAINING MARCH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

“Mircea” Training Ship conducted, between June 26 and August 8, an international training march in the Mediterranean Sea, with 86 second-year students from “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy and eight foreign students from partner academies in Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Spain and the Republic of Turkey onboard. The cadets trained under the supervision of instructors onboard the ship, the purpose of the training march being to develop specific skills of the future officers.

During the six-week march, the sailing ship docked in the ports of Piraeus (Greece), Livorno (Italy), Toulon (France), Palermo (Italy) and Bodrum (Turkey). During its stay in ports, “Mircea” Training Ship also had an important representation mission, the sailing ship being officially declared, in 2019, Honorary Ambassador in the Service of Romania, and in 2022, Ambassador of Sustainable Romania. Also, the symbolic ship of the Romanian Naval

Forces promoted seafaring traditions and the Romanian naval school.

MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE SEA SHIELD 2024 – COMPLEX COMBAT SCENARIOS AT THE BLACK SEA AND ON THE DANUBE

Multinational Exercise SEA SHIELD 2024, the calling card of the Romanian Naval Forces, took place from 8 to 21 April 2024, and included enforcement of standard NATO combat procedures in all operational environments: land, air and sea. Over 2,200 military personnel and representatives of several institutions from the national defence system, as well as from

12 other allied and partner states (Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Greece, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America) conducted complex training activities in the area of responsibility, at sea and on the river.

27 maritime and river vessels, 17 aircraft and 91 vehicles and boats took part in the training sequences of the exercise planned by the Romanian Naval Forces.

Multinational Exercise SEA SHIELD 2024 was the most complex training activity and contributed to promoting Romania's initiatives and interests regionally and internationally, as well as to increasing the level of interoperability among the participating forces.



Photex as part of
SNMCMG-2

ROMANIA'S PARTICIPATION in missions and operations outside the national territory





Romania, part of international alliances and organizations, has firmly pledged to concentrate its forces and demonstrate its commitment and national solidarity by contributing to collective defence and maintaining a stable security climate. In a contemporary world shaped by the redefinition of the global security borders, Romania contributes to the increase of national prestige by participating with troops in missions and operations outside the borders of the Romanian state, in the context of the volatile security environment, characterized by geopolitical unpredictability, and of the most complex and challenging period after World War II.

In this regard, Romania has maintained and respected its firm commitments in terms of strengthening the joint international response to numerous challenges, by contributing with forces and means of equipment to missions and operations led by NATO, the EU, the UN and coalitions.

The Joint Force Command (JFC) is the operative level command structure, directly subordinated to the Defence Staff, which is intended for the planning and management/coordination of current operations and actions of the Romanian Armed Force's force structure in peacetime. In case of armed aggression, upon the establishment of the state of siege, the declaration of mobilization or of the state of war, the JFC plans and leads the joint national defence operation.

One of the basic responsibilities of the JFC is to exercise operational command of units, small units and military personnel participating in missions and operations outside the national territory.

Romania contributes with military personnel to missions and operations outside the borders of the Romanian state in the following theaters of operations: Western Balkans, Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Central African Republic, as well as to individual missions.

As an ally and partner, Romania supported both NATO and EU efforts in the Western Balkans. Moreover, the solidarity and determination to implement and strengthen NATO's position on the eastern flank was highlighted at the same time with the deployment of the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in Bulgaria, Poland and Slovakia.

Considering the security situation maintained within the same parameters of relative calm, Romania's contribution to the theaters of operations in the Western Balkans is a priority for supporting stability and security in this region.



F 221 Frigate
during Operation
Sea Guardian

The Romanian Armed Force participates in the theater of operations in the Western Balkans with personnel and structures in Kosovo, within NATO KFOR Operation, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina within EUFOR Althea Operation.

In 2025, the Romanian Armed Force has increased its level of representation in the operations by taking over command of the most important multinational force in the Western Balkans. Romania currently contributes with more than 1,000 military personnel to regional and global security.

On January 21st, Romania took over command of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina – EUFOR, the largest multinational operation in the Western Balkans conducted under the aegis of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Major General Florin-Marian Barbu took over the command during a ceremony at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. Thus, Romania is currently

in charge of two of the nine EU-led military operations and missions, to which it contributes troops and military technology.

Romania will provide for several essential functions within the operation, including the exertion of command of the multinational battalion, a structure that can react firmly, when needed, in support of the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to maintain a safe and secure environment. The stability of the Western Balkans region is a priority for Romania, which is of strategic importance for European and Euro-Atlantic security.

EUFOR ALTHEA, which Romania will command for one-year period, involves more than 1,000 troops from 24 contributing states (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Northern Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia,

Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Turkey).

By taking over the command of the European Union's two operations, our country reaffirms its contribution to maintaining regional and global security.

A Romanian Air Force detachment, consisting of four IAR 330 helicopters, has been deployed to operate within Operation EUFOR ALTHEA since January 20th, to perform MEDEVAC and airlift and reconnaissance missions under EUFOR command 24/7. Thus, the Romanian Air Force resumed its participation in EUFOR ALTHEA operation after 20 years.

Operation EUFOR ALTHEA was initiated on December 2, 2004, based on a UN Security Council mandate (Resolution 1575/2004), to support the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a secure and stable environment. A total of 24 nations, including EU and non-EU member states, are currently participating with troops in the operation.

The purpose of the reconnaissance detachment acting as part of the Multinational Battle Group Bulgaria, at Novo Selo, is to support the Forward Land Forces Battlegroup Bulgaria (Italy Frame Nation)/FLF BG ITA FN, in conducting specific reconnaissance missions, provide the necessary intelligence and interoperability through training modules and train together with NATO partner states.

The decision to set up NATO Battle Groups in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary was made at the 2022 NATO Summit in Madrid, as part of the measures to strengthen collective defence on the North Atlantic Alliance's Eastern Flank. These battle groups were designed after those operating in the Baltic States and Poland, which were set up following the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit.

Romania's participation on the territory of Bulgaria was decided by the Resolution of the Homeland Defence Supreme Council, in 2022, deploying a communications and IT



.....
The Romanian flag hoisted in Slovakia

.....
Romanian soldiers assigned to DCIM Bulgaria



.....
Night Firing Session with GEPARD in Poland





Romanian Armed Forces soldiers training with their allies from BiH Multinational Battalion

detachment to the Headquarters Multinational Division South East area of responsibility.

Romania has extended its presence since January 2025, consisting in troops and equipment, to two other NATO Battle Groups operating in the allied countries on the Eastern Flank, namely Slovakia (with an anti-tank detachment) and Bulgaria (with a reconnaissance detachment), while continuing its participation in the Polish Battle Group with an air defence detachment.

Romania's participation in EU and UN-led missions has also been adapted in accordance with international commitments. Following the Warsaw Summit in 2016, the Alliance decided to ensure an enhanced Allied Presence on the eastern flank and to support the allied effort of strengthening its deterrence and defence posture. In this regard, Romania participates with personnel and equipment in the US-led Battle Group (BG POL), established in Poland.

The Air Defence Detachment in Poland contributes to the consolidation of security on NATO's eastern flank and is part of the deterrence measures taken at the Alliance level.

The complex security situation, the acute energy crisis, the food crisis as a result of the Ukraine's

blockade by the Russian Federation, but also as a result of the sanctions imposed on the aggressor state, war migration – all these generated a response from Romania, a state neighboring the conflict, but also a NATO and EU member state.

The battle group in Slovakia, with Spain as framework nation, includes soldiers from the Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia. Battle Group Bulgaria is led by Italy, with contributions from Albania, Croatia, Greece, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey and the United States.

Since January 18, an anti-tank defence structure of the Romanian Armed Forces was deployed to Slovakia and integrated into the Spanish-led Multinational Task Force Brigade. The Romanian anti-tank section is specialized in neutralizing armored threats, thus improving operational capabilities. The deployment and integration into the Spanish-led Multinational Task Force in Slovakia represents a significant commitment by Romania to regional security and NATO's collective defence. This integration not only consolidates our capabilities, but also enhances our interoperability with allies. Thus, Romania joins Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain in an integration

of nations that strengthens not only the military structure, but also the message of cohesion and interoperability that Spain and its allies project to the world. This is a collective effort that also demonstrates their ability to adapt to current strategic challenges, thereby contributing to a more secure and stable environment.

From April to July 2025, the Romanian Air Force took part in the NATO-led enhanced Air Policing (eAP) Mission in the Baltic States, with a detachment of approximately 100 servicemen and four F-16 multirole aircrafts.

The main objective of the air policing mission, conducted in the airspace of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, is to prevent the violation of allied airspace and to demonstrate Alliance solidarity, resolve and collective defence.

The detachment is symbolically named “Carpathian Vipers” and was deployed to Siauliai Air Base, Lithuania. The NATO-led Baltic enhanced Air Policing Mission, as part of the military surveillance of the Baltic States airspace, is conducted on the basis of a rotational system of tasks performed by the allied countries since 2004.

Romania has also taken over command of the European Union Armed Forces Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM CAR), through Brigadier General Nicolae Gabriel Oros. Established in April 2016, EUTM RCA provides support to the Central African’s security forces in terms of strategic counseling and training. The 60 Romanian military troops participating in EUTM RCA, in cooperation with representatives of international institutions, are involved in the training process of the host country’s armed forces, through strategic level advisory activities and the planning, organization and conduct of career and military education courses for officers, non-commissioned officers and specialized personnel.

The NATO Standing Maritime Presence in the Black Sea, with the aim of deterring the current threat, is one of the main missions of the Romanian



Romanian Naval Force personnel at Operation SEA GUARDIAN

Naval Forces. Romania is an active contributing state within the Standing NATO Maritime Group (SNMG), the NATO Mine Countermeasures Group (SNMCMG) and Operation Sea Guardian (OSG). At the same time, Romania contributes to the European naval effort within Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI and Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA in different maritime areas around the globe.

This enhancement of our country’s contribution to enforcing allied deterrence and defence measures complements the presence of the Romanian military personnel in the Battle Group Poland, in which the Romanian Armed Force has been participating since 2017.

Romania’s presence with more than 150 military and technical personnel in the North Atlantic NATO Battle Groups reflects our country’s firm commitment to strengthening collective defence on the Eastern Flank.

Romania supports numerous other missions and operations led by the UN, the EU and coalitions with different goals, in theaters of operations and areas of operations in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and other regions in Asia.

The missions and operations in which Romania participates with military personnel are an impressive effort both from the logistical and operational points of view, as well as from the perspective of the human resources that must be trained to the highest standards.



The major procurement programs of the ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES

Given the strategic importance of the eastern flank (from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea) for the security of the Alliance in the current strategic context, Romania remains committed to developing defence capabilities for the fulfillment of the assigned missions.

National efforts in the field of the Romanian Armed Forces equipping mainly aim at meeting the commitments undertaken by our country to NATO, within the defence planning process. Without a doubt, these acquisition programs, once finalized, will also significantly contribute to the consolidation of the forward collective defence posture on the eastern flank, in a coherent and efficient manner.

The General Directorate for Armaments is currently running over 70 significant procurement programs, in different implementation stages, at the level of all Services.

THE F-35 FIFTH GENERATION MULTIROLE AIRCRAFT

The Homeland Defence Supreme Council approved the Building of the Air Defence Capability with Fifth Generation Multirole Aircraft, by equipping the Air

Force with 48 F-35 aircraft in two phases: Phase I (two squadrons – 32 aircraft) and Phase II (one squadron – 16 aircraft).

The F-35 aircraft, equipped with a wide range of advanced sensors, the capacity to exchange encrypted information in real time, both with national and NATO air platforms and with ground-based or naval air defence systems, the capacity to actually manage the operational image of the battlefield, as well as with high-precision smart ammunitions, allow the achievement and maintenance of air superiority, a mandatory condition for ensuring sovereignty of national airspace and, if necessary, for its defence.

The total cost of the Phase I Program (32 aircraft) was estimated at \$6.5 billion, based on the US Government's (USG) Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) offer. The costs include ILS (Initial Logistics Support) elements, ongoing access to the F-35 Global Support Solution, US pilot and technician training services, and development and upgrade costs to the latest manufacturing configuration at the time of delivery.

The Letter of Acceptance (LoA) Agreement was signed in November 2024, with first deliveries by the US scheduled for 2030-2031 and final deliveries in 2035.

PATRIOT HIGH SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM

The Romanian Parliament approved Law No. 222/2017 for the purchase of PATRIOT systems for the building of the “Ground-based Air Defence Capability”, related to Patriot “High Surface-to-Air Missile System (HSAM)”. The document provides for the award of contracts to the US Government for the acquisition of seven PATRIOT surface-to-air missile systems in 3+ configuration from current production (new), respectively, major pieces of equipment, means of transport, materials, spare parts, maintenance equipment, necessary ammunition, the initial logistics support package and training service, cryptographic and special regime equipment.

The main contractors of the equipment and services package related to the PATRIOT systems are the American companies Raytheon and Lockheed-Martin.

The Romanian Armed Forces received the first PATRIOT high surface-to-air missile system in 2020, and the main and logistic support equipment for three more missile systems for the 74th PATRIOT Regiment of the Romanian Air Force arrived in Romania starting October 2022.

So far, four PATRIOT systems stipulated in stage I of the procurement program have been delivered, one of which was transferred to Ukraine, following the decision of the Homeland Defence Supreme Council of June 2024. The decision was made in close coordination with the Allies, in the context of the significant deterioration of the security situation in Ukraine, as a result of Russia’s constant and massive attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially on the energy sector, and considering the regional consequences of this situation, including on the security of Romania.

For the other three PATRIOT systems, related to the second phase of the procurement program, a LoA (Letter of Acceptance) was signed in November 2023. They will enter the Air Force’s service starting 2027. The value of the second phase amounts to approximately 1.85 billion USD.

After donating a PATRIOT system to Ukraine in September 2024, the Ministry of National Defence initiated the necessary steps for the acquisition of a new PATRIOT system, through non-reimbursable external



F-35 Aircraft

funds, made available to the MoND by the American partner and by allies, through the Germany-led multinational initiative to support Ukraine – Immediate Action for Air Defence (IAAD). By the beginning of 2025, the American, German and Norwegian allies confirmed their participation in the financing of the PATRIOT system. With the acquisition of this system, the Romanian Armed Forces will be equipped with 7 PATRIOT missile systems, according to the provisions of Law 222/2017 for the building of the “Ground-based Air Defence Capability”.

Romania has acquired a modern hardware and software configuration of PATRIOT systems in service, a configuration that has been tested in combat and is capable of engaging all types of current air threats.

By equipping the PATRIOT high surface-to-air missile systems, the Romanian Armed Force increases its defensive and deterrent capacity, ensuring better defence of the national airspace, part of NATO airspace.



F-16 AIRCRAFT

The program was initiated in 2013 and is ongoing. 17 F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft were successively purchased from Portugal during phase I. Phase II is currently underway and represents the final transition phase for the acquisition of 32 F-16 aircraft from Norway. The estimated cost of this phase amounts to 494 million Euros.

Romania has completed a new F-16 aircraft squadron in January 2025 according to the contract with Norway, which is to deliver the other 16 aircraft, throughout 2025.

According to the Concept for the gradual building of the air defence capability, within the Air Force Multirole Aircraft Program, the Government of Romania has awarded the Government of the Kingdom of Norway the contract for the acquisition of 32 F-16 aircraft, with initial logistical support, and a complementary package

of goods and services (from the Government of the United States of America).

The aircraft are delivered in operational condition, their available resource ensuring their operation for a 10-year transition period to the 5th generation aircraft, the F-35, which makes the acquisition of the Norwegian fighter jets represent, in fact, a transfer of capability between two allied countries.

The acquisition of the new batch (Phase II) of F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and the related package of goods and services ensure the increase of Romania's security, by defending the national/NATO airspace, during peacetime and in crisis situations, through the NATO-led Air Policing Permanent Combat Service.

In May 2024, the US approved the sale of AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II missiles to Romania, valued at approximately 70 million US dollars. The acquisition will ensure the equipping of the Romanian Air Force's multirole F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft with the most

advanced version of the AIM-9X Sidewinder – Block II missile, which is currently operated by the US military. The procurement program also includes the logistical support package, namely spare homing heads, training missiles, personnel training, technical assistance, technical documentation and transport services, so as to ensure a complete capability for the Romanian Air Force.

MINE HUNTER PROGRAM

The “Mine Hunter” program, with a total value of 150,000,000 EURO (excluding VAT), will increase the capacity of the Romanian Naval Forces to act effectively to counter the current mine threat, in order to protect the navigation routes and the existing critical infrastructure in the area of responsibility. It comprises three sub-components: a Government-to-Government agreement with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which stipulates the procurement

of two upgraded Sandown-class minesweepers, initial logistical support with the naval platform builder Babcock International Group and a procurement contract with Atlas Elektronik UK, the economic operator certified by the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for the autonomous research systems and destruction costs related to the SeaFox mine countermeasure system, installed onboard the Sandown-class ships.

The first of the two minesweepers, M-270 “Sublocotenent Ion Ghiculescu”, a military ship interoperable with NATO structures, is part of the Sandown class, has a 600-deadweight tonnage, a 52.5-meter length, a 10.9-meter width, a 2.3-meter draft and is equipped with mine countermeasures (MCM) capabilities.

The reception of the second minesweeper is estimated to take place in the second quarter of 2025.

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F-16 Fighting Falcon





Abrams Main Battle Tank

By equipping the M 270 “Sublocotenent Ion Ghiculescu” Minesweeper, the Romanian Naval Forces substantially contribute to the execution of specific missions in the area of responsibility, to strengthening the regional security, as well as to participating, alongside its NATO partners, within the standing naval groups. At the same time, the M 270 “Sublocotenent Ion Ghiculescu” Minehunter is a platform that will strengthen the operational profile of the Romanian Naval Forces from the perspective of structural and qualitative transformation, in order to adapt to the developments of the security environment and achieve interoperability with allied and partner forces.

A series of other acquisition programs are underway, at different development stages, depending on the specifics of each program and their related operational requirements.

MODERNIZATION OF MISSILE CARRIERS WITH NSM SYSTEMS

The objective of the program is to upgrade the missile carriers’ operational capabilities in accordance with the current technological level and ensure a high degree of

interoperability with other national and NATO member states’ combat units, to the standards described by the NW-L and NASUW-SUR capability codes.

In 2024, the LoA contract was signed for the delivery and installation of two launch facilities on the first Naval Forces ship at the end of 2025. The contracts for the other two missile carriers are to be signed in 2025.

ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANK

The Ministry of National Defence signed, at the end of 2023, the LoA contract for the supply of 54 Abrams M1A2 SEPv3 battle tanks and 12 tank chassis derivatives, ammunition and training simulators, and the contract entered into force in the first quarter of 2024.

The combat vehicles that will enter the service of Romanian Land Forces will be delivered starting with 2026, in one of the most modern versions of this model, which is also used by the US Army. The value of the contract amounts to 1.07 billion USD, in accordance with the prior approval of the Romanian Parliament.

For the security of supply, the MOND expresses its openness and support for the involvement of the



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274 "Vice Admiral
Constantin
Bălescu"
Minelayer

national industry in order to provide integrated logistic support throughout the equipment life cycle.

The running of the Abrams Program represents not only a major opportunity for the Romanian Land Forces, which will have state-of-the-art combat means, adapted to the challenges of the regional security environment, but also demonstrates, as concretely as possible, the solidarity and excellent level of cooperation between Romania and the United States, especially in the military field.

SHORAD-VSHORAD INTEGRATED WEAPON SYSTEM

The program provides for the acquisition of 16 SH-VSH integrated systems, 9 SH systems, 16 VSH systems, 2 reduced training systems and a simulator for the training of VSH operators.

The estimated value of the program is 4.2 billion EUROS.

The program will be implemented in two stages. The first stage runs until 2030 and provides for the delivery of 6 SH-VSH integrated systems, 6 SH systems and 6 VSH systems. The estimated cost is 1.9 billion Euros. The second stage will be implemented after 2030 and will provide for the acquisition of 10 SH-VSH integrated systems, 3 SH systems and 10 VSH systems. The estimated cost is 2.3 billion EUROS.

ATBTU ARMORED TACTICAL VEHICLES

The program provides for the acquisition of 5,721 vehicles, whose estimated value is 25,450,602,050 RON. 1,059 vehicles will be acquired throughout Stage I, their estimated value amounting to 4,583,867,384 RON.

Following a specific competitive procurement procedure, the supply contract was awarded, at the end of 2024, to OTOKAR OTOMOTIV VE SAVUNMA SANAYI A.S. Company Turkey, which will deliver the first batch of 278 ATBTU starting 2025. The program provides for the manufacture/integration of the vehicles in Romania, starting with batch no. 2.

155 MM BATTALION-LEVEL HOWITZER SYSTEM

Stage I of the program provides for the equipping of the Land Forces with 3 Battalion-level 155 mm howitzer systems (54 self-propelled tracked howitzers), together with the associated ammunition for one system and initial logistical support.

The contract for the supply of 3 Battalion-level systems (54 self-propelled tracked howitzers), the associated ammunition for one system and initial logistical support was signed with the Korean company Hanwha Aerospace, in July 2024. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2027. Also, Hanwha Aerospace proposed, as compensatory operations, the creation of a production/assembly capacity and technology transfer necessary for the manufacture/assembly in

Romania of products related to the second and third battalions.

MODERNIZATION OF THE OERLIKON MODEL GDF 103 ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY SYSTEM

The program, run by the Land Forces Staff provides for the modernization of 4 systems (24 guns) Oerlikon GDF 103 air defence artillery systems with C-RAM capabilities.

Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH and the Ministry of National Defence signed, in December 2023, the framework agreement on the modernization of the 24 GDF 103 air defence systems and two subsequent contracts. The first contract stipulates the delivery of two upgraded CRAM systems (12 GDF 103 air defence guns) within 24 months from its signing, while the second contract specifies the delivery of two modernized CRAM systems (12 GDF 103 air defence guns) within 36 months from its initiation. The value of the first subsequent contract amounts to 166,087,602.75 Euros, while the value of the second sums to 162,357,257.65 Euros.

The following procurement programs are in the final stages of documentation and substantiation, with expected initiation in 2025, as follows:

1. NATO-type individual weapon system;
2. MLI tracked infantry fighting vehicle;
3. MANPAD (Man-portable air defence systems)
4. Mobile approach and landing guidance radar, RDAAM
5. Cyber security and defence system (SSAC)
6. Integrated geospatial information collection, processing and analysis system – GEOINT system
7. T22 frigate modernization
8. C-130 aircraft upgrading and avionics system modernization
9. Maritime patrol vessel – OPV

CYBER DEFENCE COMMAND

NATO Summit Warsaw 2016 and the Away Day meeting of NATO 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 proved 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 1st of December 2018 and subordinated to the Chief of 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. Currently, 6 more countries have joined the PESCO project: Belgium, Slovenia, Denmark, Austria, Latvia, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Latvia, Italy, and 4 other



Exercise CyberMAN 2024

nations as Observer Member States: Finland, France, Greece, Spain.

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 our allies was a real success in our joint exercises, such as Saber Guardian, Steadfast Cobalt, CyDEX, Concordia, Locked Shields, Cyber Perseu, Noble Guardian, MilCERT, CyberMAN, CWIX, CETATEA, Federated Cloud and Cyber Coalition. Other exercises in which the Cyber Defence Command has also participated in: Cyber EXPERT Game, Amber Mist, Crossed Swords, Cyber-KONGO, International Cyber Defence Exercise “APEX-2024”.

Locked Shields Annual Exercise, organized by *NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence*

(CCDCoE) since 2010, enables cyber security experts to enhance their skills in defending national IT systems and critical infrastructure in real-time attacks. The focus is placed on realistic scenarios, cutting-edge technologies and simulating the entire complexity of a massive cyber incident, including strategic decision-making, legal and communication aspects.

Romania has been participating in Locked Shields since 2021 with a team made up of cyber defence, IT, law and strategic communication experts activating in the National Public Order, Defence and Security System, DNSC, as well as the private companies operating in these fields. Cyber Command has been participating in Locked Shields since 2020 with cyber security, IT, legal and strategic communication experts.

Cyber Coalition is NATO’s flagship annual collective cyber defence exercise and one of the largest in the world. It is planned and conducted by Allied Command

Transformation under the governance of the Military Committee.

Cyber Coalition Exercise, which has been held annually since 2008, brings together a cyber coalition of NATO Bodies, NATO Allies, and Partners to strengthen the Alliance ability to deter, defend against and counter threats in and through cyberspace in support of NATO's core tasks by exercising collaboration and cyberspace operations, and providing input to NATO transformation.

Cyber Command has been participating in this exercise since 2018. Based on challenging and realistic scenarios, the exercise simulates a wide range of cyber threats to critical infrastructure and networks, thus allowing participants from Cyber Command to test new tactics, techniques and procedures, as well as develop effective strategies to respond in a coordinated manner to challenges in cyberspace.

Coalition Warrior Interoperability Exercise (CWIX) – is the biggest interoperability exercise of its kind in NATO.



CyberMAN-Premiere





CyberEXPERT

It is where Alliance and partner nations make sure that their command and control capabilities increase interoperability as an essential first-step toward NATO missions such as the Allied Response Force, or ARF. At the same time, CWIX is a testbed for interoperability specifications that are hard-wired into experimental and near-fielded capabilities, ready for future NATO missions.

CWIX offered IT experts from the Cyber Command the opportunity to test technical and procedural interoperability but also to improve a series of IT&C capabilities and services with a focus on those used within deployable systems. Effective interoperability between NATO and partner states is the key factor in a „Multi-domain” military operation.

CyberMAN Exercise is a technical training activity, developed and organized by specialists of the Cyber Command. The development of this exercise reflects a constant need within the training process, dedicated to combating the diverse and complex range of cyber threats that are growing exponentially. The exercise provides participants with the opportunity to test their cybersecurity skills. They can improve their technical knowledge of current cyber threats, as well as methods to eliminate and remediate existing vulnerabilities.

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;
- ✓ National and international partnerships in the field of defence and cyber security;
- ✓ Rendering operational the cyber defence technical capabilities.

The MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE

The Military Medical Service provides medical assistance and preventive medicine and develops medical research programs, with the primary goal of having healthy military personnel that can accomplish operational duties. The military retired personnel and war veterans and their family members and the civilian population can also receive healthcare in the military medical facilities at all levels: primary medical assistance; specialty ambulatory medical assistance; dental medical assistance; hospital care; rehabilitation medicine.

STRUCTURE

The **Medical Directorate** is the central specialized structure that develops the overall concept for organizing, equipping and functioning of the medical and veterinary assistance in the Armed Forces, in peacetime, contingency and wartime, continuously improving and modernizing the military medical system. Cooperation is a core value and the Medical Directorate provides support for military command structures, and maintains continuous communication with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, national healthcare insurance institutions and other healthcare structures.

The **primary medical assistance** is provided by physicians serving in primary medical assistance structures at unit level, as general practitioners.

The **specialty ambulatory medical assistance** is available through ambulatory facilities, such as “Acad. Dr. Stefan Milcu” Medical Centre of Ambulatory Diagnosis and Treatment, Bucharest and “Gen. Dr. Av. Victor Anastasiu” National Institute of Aeronautics and Space Medicine, Bucharest. The basic mission of “**Acad. Dr. Stefan Milcu**” Medical Centre of Ambulatory Diagnosis and Treatment is to provide for the annual medical check-up of the MoND military and civilian personnel, the MoND personnel upon their departure/arrival to/from foreign missions, the people who choose a military career, as well as the primary and specialty medical assistance for the MoND military and civilian personnel and their family members, military retirees and war veterans and their family members, and for other people insured in the national health insurance system.

“Gen. Dr. Av. Victor Anastasiu” National Institute of Aeronautics and Space Medicine was established in 1920. The founder, whose name the institute proudly carries, was General Doctor Aviator Victor Anastasiu. He was the first pilot in Europe to be also a medical doctor. His research on pilot population was recognized all over Europe. With such a deep and honoring tradition, NIASM, no matter its organization form, strived for excellence. In 1978, the institute selected the Romanian cosmonauts for InterCosmos missions, and one of them, Dumitru Prunariu, made the flight in outer space in 1981. NIASM hosted the 59th International Congress of Aviation and Space Medicine in 2011.

The main missions of the institute are:

- ✓ organizes the medical and psychological selection and expertise for both military and civilian aeronautical personnel;
- ✓ organizes training in aerospace physiology;
- ✓ examines the medical staff who participate in special missions in the country and abroad;
- ✓ participates with specialists in the investigation of the military and civil aeronautical events;
- ✓ organizes the medical training in the aeronautical and space medicine with Romanian Ministry of Health;
- ✓ organizes the scientific research programs in aeronautical and space medicine;
- ✓ represents Romania in the international relations concerning the aeronautical and space medicine;
- ✓ publishes the medicine books and the Journal of Aeronautical Medicine and Psychology;
- ✓ assures the primary and specialty healthcare.

In order to be fit for the missions, NIASM strives to maintain and procure special and top range medical equipment, pictures of several such pieces of equipment being attached.

Hospital care is provided by 11 emergency military hospitals distributed all over the country. The most important military hospital is “Dr. Carol Davila” Central Military Emergency Hospital, Bucharest.

Medical recovery assistance aims to improve the health of the military and civilian personnel provided by the MoND specialized medical unit, namely “Dr. Dimitrie Cantemir” Bălățești Balneophysiotherapy and Medical Recovery Sanatorium.



“Acad. Dr. Stefan Milcu” Medical Centre of Ambulatory Diagnosis and Treatment



National Institute of Aeronautics and Space Medicine “Gen. Dr. Av. Victor Anastasiu” (NIASM)



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"Col. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Nestorescu" Blood Transfusion
Centre of Ministry of National Defence



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The National Institute of Medical-Military Research and
Development "Cantacuzino" Bucharest



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Military Medicine Institute

Provision of pharmaceutical supply and medical logistic support for medical operational structures with medicines, sanitary-pharmaceutical materials and medical devices is ensured by the Medical Directorate

through specialized structures (**Zonal Centers for Medical Logistics and Sanitary Deposits**) entirely financed by the state budget.

The Centre for Preventive Medicine, a health unit subordinated to the Medical Directorate, provides public health and veterinary assistance to the Ministry of National Defence.

The main objective is the implementation of specific national legislation, in order to maintain the health and operational capacity of the Romanian Armed Forces' personnel, through the following activities:

- ✓ public health inspection;
- ✓ veterinary inspection;
- ✓ surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases and healthcare-associated infections;
- ✓ vaccination and specific chemoprophylaxis for the deployed personnel;
- ✓ surveillance, prevention and control, within Ministry of National Defence, of occupational diseases, including research, declaration, recording and reporting of occupational diseases;
- ✓ assessment and correction of the negative influence of environmental and occupational factors on the personnel's health status.

The mission of **"Col. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Nestorescu" Blood Transfusion Centre of Ministry of National Defence** is to provide a safe, sufficient and accessible blood supply to meet the requirements of military personnel, veterans and civilians during peace time, contingency and conflict. This centre is dedicated to providing a safe and efficient environment for blood collection, testing, processing and distribution. Laboratories are equipped with the latest technology for blood testing. The Blood Transfusion Center is the only one in the country using the fully automated NAT machine Cobas 6800. The blood is tested in order to detect HBV, HCV, HIV & WNV. The processing facility is operated by proficient technicians and furnished with state-of-the-art technology for blood processing. Temperature in the storage compartment is rigorously regulated using an automatic monitoring device. The Distribution Area ensures a timely response to critical patient requirements by efficiently managing the allocation of blood components to hospitals. Beyond routine blood collection and distribution, "Col. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Nestorescu" Blood Transfusion Centre

carries out various special activities such as: Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (supplying blood during natural disasters, pandemics, or mass casualties). They intend to implement Walking Blood Bank Programs. A modern mobile laboratory is used to organize mobile blood collections.

“Cantacuzino” National Institute for Medical- Military Research and Development conducts activities related to public health assistance at national level, such as communicable diseases early warning and investigation of infectious diseases outbreaks (e.g. food and water borne diseases, hospital acquired infections, antimicrobial resistant community/hospital infections outbreaks etc., laboratory surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases, sexually and blood transmitted diseases etc.), providing serological and/ or molecular data to integrate public health action (introducing new vaccines, new surveillance programs or methods, etc.). It also develops molecular methods, such as PCR, Real Time PCR, PFGE, sequencing etc. for the diagnosis and surveillance of communicable diseases, conducts scientific research aiming at increasing the laboratory capacity and training of microbiology and immunology specialists, and develops medical countermeasures against CBRN threats.

Military Medicine Institute is the military institution specialized in training military medical students to become medical doctors/ commissioned officers in the Ministry of National Defence, commisioned Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Justice. The training of health care professionals at university and post-academic level is provided through partnerships with civilian medical universities in Bucharest, Târgu-Mureş and Oradea. Other partnerships with medical universities from Craiova, Cluj-Napoca, Iași and Timișoara will be built starting with the 2025 academic year.

The **Medical-Military Training Centre Sebeș** is a non-academic initial and continuous



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Exercise Sarmis-Olt 24

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MEDEVAC mission



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Exercise Saber Guardian 2023





Spinal Neurosurgery Department



professional training institution, subordinated to the Medical Directorate of the Ministry of National Defence, which provides:

- ✓ an initial specialization in the medical-military service and preparation for the first position of non-commissioned officers;
- ✓ continuous professional training through career and improvement/specialty courses for

non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel in the military/medical service, military health specialty;

- ✓ training of military reservists in the armed forces / medical service, military health specialty;
- ✓ organizing and conducting general and/or specialized military training modules for personnel without initial medical training;
- ✓ organizing and conducting other professional training programs, according to the medical-military training requirements of the Ministry of National Defence.

FIELD DEPLOYMENTS

Operational medical assistance consists of all medical assistance activities, soldiers' medical evacuation and medical logistic support, according to the operational requirements, during force generation, deployment and regeneration. The Medical Directorate also coordinates the participation of the MoND medical personnel in national and multinational medical exercises, such as:

Participation of the personnel from two military hospitals (Clinical Emergency Military Hospital Braşov and Military Emergency Clinical Hospital Sibiu) which jointly staffed a ROL2B-type formation, in Multinational inter-institutional **SARMIS-OLT 24 Exercise**, under the operational command of Task Force Mountain, made up of personnel from 2 Mountain Troop brigades, with alongside detachments from Belgium, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Turkey and Great Britain. 27 soldiers, medical officers with various medico-surgical specialties, pharmacists, nurses, staff and medical logistic specialists participated in **SARMIS-OLT 24 Exercise**.

Military Emergency Hospital Constanţa participated, alongside other 12 allied and partner states, such as Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Great Britain, Moldova, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Turkey and the United States of America, with medical staff in Multinational Exercise "**Sea Shield 24**". Also, the other Romanian Armed Force's Services, as well as structures of the national security system (Inspectorate for Emergency Situations), participated in this exercise, where a chemical weapons attack was simulated at sea, onboard of some Romanian Naval Forces military ships. The casualties onboard the military



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Doctor attending a patient

ships were the subject of a triage, they were given first aid measures by the medical staff of the Military Emergency Hospital Constanta, after which they were transported by ambulance to Military Emergency Hospital and to Constanța County Hospital.

The Military Emergency Hospital Cluj-Napoca provided real-life support for emergencies during **SWIFT RESPONSE 24** International Military Exercise.

Also, the same medical military unit organized a medical support FTX in an urban conflict in cooperation with the Euroatlantic Resilience Center (EARC) and 4th Infantry Division between 5 and 6 November 2024. Lessons learned were of great value. Moreover, every year the structure generates the personnel for FMT ROL 2B in support of a Mechanized Brigade in **WIND SPRING** Multinational Exercise.

VIGOROUS WARRIOR 24 AND CLEAN CARE 24

Vigorous Warrior 2024 and Clean Care 2024 Multinational Medical Exercises were conducted from April 28 to May 9, 2024, at the Hungarian Defence Forces' BAKONY Combat Training Centre in Hungary. The main objective of these exercises was to provide joint training and assess the interoperability and maneuverability of medical support units during an Article 5 operation, including the capability to respond to potential Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) incidents within a civil-military context.

Approximately 1,600 soldiers and civilians from 37 NATO and partner nations participated in these exercises. Such exercises involved medical structures and civil protection agencies such as firefighters, police, ambulance services, and NGOs.

The Romanian MoND Medical Directorate contributed with two mobile/deployable capabilities: a BioLab for detecting chemical and biological agents, and a BloodBank. The exercises' key objectives were:

- ✓ Enhancing the capabilities of BioLab and Mobile BloodBank units and aligning them with NATO standards.
- ✓ Facilitating knowledge exchange and standardizing operational procedures among participating nations.
- ✓ Training medical personnel in a multinational environment, emphasizing mobility and adaptability.
- ✓ Increasing the visibility of Romania's specialized medical contributions within NATO.
- ✓ Demonstrating the preparedness to respond to CBRN incidents in a collective defence scenario.



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Students attending a Congress

HUMAN INTELLIGENCE in NATO. Review of the NATO Humint COE's contribution in 15 years of activity

Human Intelligence (HUMINT) has consistently proved pivotal in shaping strategic decisions and influencing outcomes during historical conflicts. Today, as part of a broader intelligence collection spectrum that integrates various technical sensors, HUMINT specifically focuses on information gathered from human sources by specifically trained operators. HUMINT often provides unique insights, uncovering threat networks, key individuals, roles, morale, and operational intentions. It facilitates access to restricted areas, offering an internal perspective on critical infrastructure and supporting the measurement of effectiveness in no-go areas. The intelligence gathered through observation or direct interaction with individuals helps address the fundamental Intelligence questions—who, what, where, when, why, and how—while adding crucial context and narrative to events.

HUMINT has consistently adapted to meet the demands of modern military operations. In counterinsurgency campaigns, it transitioned from targeting enemy forces (as in conventional warfare) to gathering intelligence about local populations. This shift enabled HUMINT to decode the human dynamics driving insurgent movements and facilitating the targeting of high-value individuals while winning locals' minds and hearts.

The conflict in Ukraine further demonstrated HUMINT's adaptability. The evolving nature of warfare highlights its essential role in countering hybrid threats. Hybrid warfare blends conventional military operations with cyber-attacks, information warfare, and subversive activities. HUMINT stands out by deciphering the intricate web of actors involved, ranging from military forces and paramilitaries to civilian informants and saboteurs. In Ukraine, personal interactions within occupied or liberated areas have proven invaluable in identifying hidden affiliations, exposing adversarial networks, and uncovering operational intentions. HUMINT operatives handling sources embedded in conflict zones provided timely intelligence on troop movements, shifting allegiances, and adversary strategies. This proximity to the operational environment allowed for rapidly disseminating actionable intelligence to decision-makers, enabling precise and effective countermeasures. The conflict also demonstrated the value of integrating HUMINT with other intelligence disciplines, such as IMINT, SIGINT, and OSINT, to achieve precise outcomes.



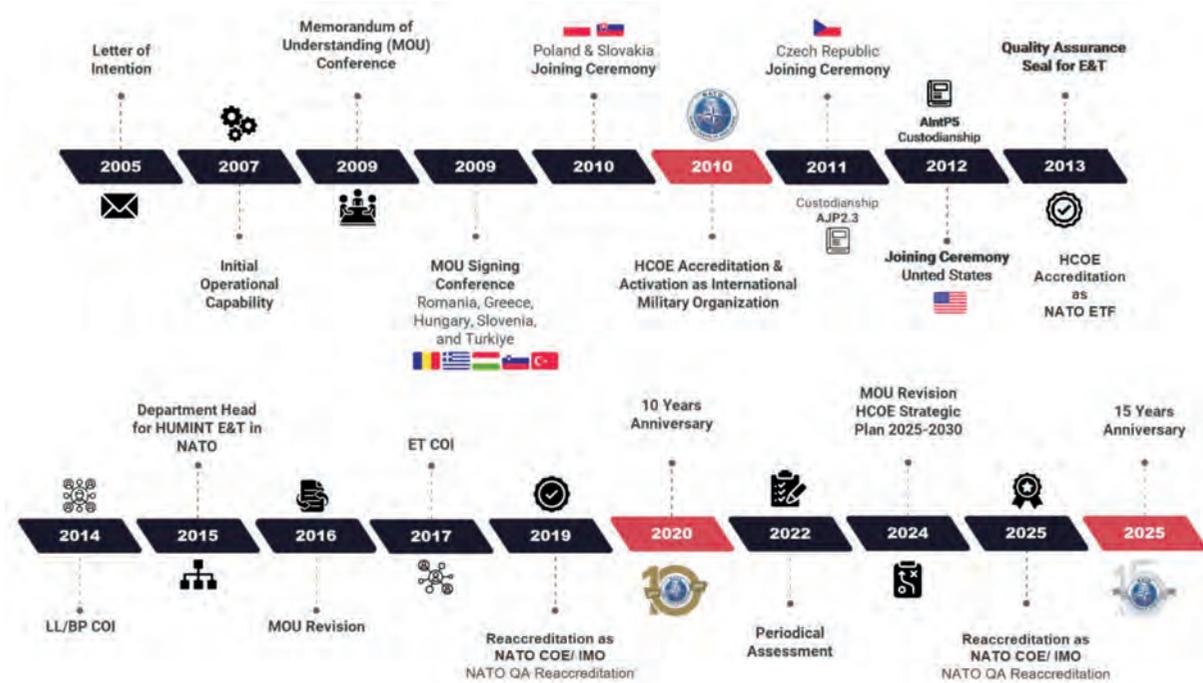
Cross-cueing between these sources enabled targeted operations, minimized collateral damage, and enhanced situational awareness.

The importance of HUMINT extends beyond tactical advantages. Early warning mechanisms, real-time intelligence sharing and publicizing declassified intelligence have proven critical in countering disinformation and shaping international responses.

During the Ukraine conflict, these efforts aligned public opinion, bolstered international support, and enhanced Ukraine's defensive posture. Moreover, HUMINT's strategic contributions will resonate in post-conflict recovery. The actionable intelligence gathered during the conflict will aid rebuilding efforts, pursuing accountability for war crimes, and fostering long-term stability in the region.

As the multiple features of the HUMINT activity are permanently adapted to the current trends and foresight challenges posed by hybrid warfare, the cyber environment, the emergence of disruptive technologies, or the generic societal evolution, it should be clearly understood that HUMINT is a complex activity and its outcome cannot be generated overnight. Although some HUMINT operations are short in duration, the whole tradecraft usually requires a long-term commitment, as well as extensive and meticulous development over the years to become effective.

In any context, HUMINT remains a vital component of intelligence frameworks. Its ability to provide timely, context-rich insights through human interaction sets it apart in countering hybrid threats and supporting decision-making. By integrating innovative practices, adhering to ethical standards, and adapting to diverse



HCOE establishment and development

operational contexts, HUMINT continues to consolidate its role as a critical asset in the ever-evolving landscape of warfare. In this picture, continuous learning, skills development, and exercising are paramount in consolidating the quality of human capital – the main asset of the HUMINT capability.

NATO HUMINT COE – THE HUMINT HUB OF THE NORTH-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE

NATO employs an impressive Intelligence Enterprise, built on the NATO Command and NATO Force Structures (NCS/ NFS), and based on the Allied Nations' contribution (as Intelligence activities within NATO are typically carried out by member countries' intelligence agencies that collaborate and share intelligence information as needed to support the alliance's objectives). Each member country maintains its intelligence agencies and capabilities, and they work together through various NATO mechanisms (such as the NATO Intelligence Committee (NIC) and the Military Intelligence Committee (MIC), responsible for

coordinating intelligence-sharing efforts among member countries and ensuring that intelligence supports NATO's missions and activities). Additionally, capability development is supported by other specialized groups, in connection with standardization, concept development, education and training, or lessons learned lines of effort, and distributed by various areas of the Intelligence functions.

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

The enabler and catalyst of the HUMINT capability development in NATO, acting in concert with the relevant bodies in International Military Staff, SHAPE, or Allied Command Transformation, is the NATO HUMINT

Centre of Excellence (HCOE) from Oradea, Romania. It ensures the chairmanship and secretariat support for NHWG and NHTWG, being the spearhead of all initiatives for HUMINT capability development in NATO.

HCOE was officially established in 2010 to support NATO's strategic goals related to intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination, with a focus on HUMINT. Its mission revolves around improving the effectiveness and interoperability of HUMINT capability across the Alliance by facilitating collaboration, research, training, and the exchange of expertise.

Launched by NATO's Military Committee in 2003, COEs are independent multinational entities that provide expertise to support NATO's transformation, focusing on doctrine development, lessons learned, concept experimentation, and education and training. COEs are not part of NATO's formal command structure but operate as International Military Organizations under the Paris Protocol. They play a key role in enhancing interoperability, improving operational capabilities, and sharing best practices and lessons learned. Each COE has unique characteristics shaped by and focus areas. Their work is guided by NATO directives and policies, ensuring alignment with NATO's goals. COEs foster collaboration, innovation, and transformation, benefiting both NATO and contributing nations.

Since its inception, HCOE gathered a critical mass of experienced professionals (not only from the sponsor nations – Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Türkiye, and the USA – but also from other supporting nations – Germany, Netherlands, UK, etc. – or NATO and national entities), able to provide high-quality expertise in the HUMINT field with the goal of transforming the NATO HUMINT Enterprise into a more interoperable and more capable vector in NATO missions and operations.

HCOE fosters a collaborative environment where Intelligence experts can share knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned in the field of HUMINT. By facilitating dialogue and cooperation, the Centre helps align practices and approaches to address common challenges. In this respect, the Centre acts as an expertise hub contributing to a complete spectrum of activities related to HUMINT:

- ✓ The custodianship and maintenance of NATO HUMINT doctrine, standards, tactics, techniques, and procedures, and development of specific terminology. This ensures that member states operate based on a common set of principles and guidelines, leading to greater interoperability and cooperation. The Centre's experts also authored a significant number of handbooks addressed to various functions in the HUMINT organization or spectrum of activities, providing decisive support to NATO and national education and training, and synergic action in theatres of operations.
- ✓ The development, experimentation, and validation of new theoretical and technical concepts, aligned with emerging trends, fostering innovation, and answering operational shortfalls. HUMINT toolbox, human aspects in operations, HUMINT in cyber environment, HUMINT support to human network analysis and targeting, debriefing of migrants or refugees, psychology support to HUMINT engagement, artificial intelligence support to HUMINT, a concept for resilient HUMINT organization (adapted to various requirements and challenges) – are just several subjects where the Centre's experts elaborated studies or conducted projects (some of them with NATO grants, funded by the NATO Innovation Hub or NATO Emerging Security Challenges Division).
- ✓ HCOE is a NATO-accredited Education and Training (E&T) facility, with a sound quality assurance system, based on the Allied standards, and following NATO's Global Programming approach. HCOE supports the HUMINT E&T management in NATO (as HUMINT Department Head), and ensures the design and delivery of resident/ blended and online certified individual E&T solutions (or custom-made courses delivered by mobile teams) offered to NCS/NFS and Allied Nations. The HUMINT courses are widely appreciated by the HCOE's customers, both in terms of subject coverage, quality of delivery, and support management, being subject to a sound and continuous improvement process based on the feedback collected, doctrinal changes, and lessons learned output. HCOE is also a champion in supporting HUMINT-related collective training and

exercises, with an active presence in sustaining the evaluation of HUMINT elements across the Alliance.

- ✓ The HUMINT lessons learned and best practices management, based on a recognized methodology that addresses operational shortfalls and provides remedial proposals, supporting the capability transformation process, enhancing operational effectiveness, and strengthening interoperability. By conducting passive and active collection of observations and best practices, and analyzing them, HCOE ensures the permanent improvement of HUMINT tactics, techniques and procedures, and develops new concepts to keep the HUMINT capability relevant in NATO.

Academic Outreach is an important vector to connect HCOE to the educational institutions and industry environment, to develop networking, enhance critical thinking, promote research, and contribute to both staff development and institutional resilience. Recognizing that a mutually beneficial and meaningful relationship with academic institutions (both military and civilian) facilitates an improved institutional display and enhances the overall systemic processes, covering aspects of know-how and expertise exchange, scientific research, education and training support, or technical capabilities development, the Centre is already signatory party of a series of cooperation protocols with various institutions in Romania and abroad (figure 2). The relationship is further materialized in a series of common endeavors: coordination workshops and mutual work visits, exchange of know-how, support with SMEs in research projects, exchange of instructors/supporting speakers in courses, participation in conferences, or organization of various events (e.g. the HUMINT Bootcamp).

Another important aspect of the Centre's activity is enhancing the human capital in HUMINT at the level of the Alliance, contributing to various studies and projects that address this challenge. Human capital development is a critical endeavor that focuses on augmenting the skills, expertise, and professionalism of individuals engaged in intelligence management, collection, analysis, and technical support.

Education and training represent just one facet of development within this field. While comprehensive training programs provide HUMINT professionals with

essential skills for their appointments, it is imperative that individuals in the intelligence sector chart their unique paths of continuous learning as part of lifelong professional and personal development. Additionally, staying abreast of global events and emerging trends is essential to enable these professionals to contribute knowledgeably to their roles. Human capital development also encompasses leadership and management abilities, cross-cultural competence and sensitivity, cognitive acumen (including critical thinking), emotional intelligence (interpersonal skills and stress management), and technological proficiency, which include both digital literacy and adaptability to evolving tech trends. Not least among these considerations, HUMINT experts should also address the ethical and legal constraints inherent in intelligence gathering. Ensuring that HUMINT professionals possess a comprehensive understanding of the boundaries and ethical dilemmas they may confront is of utmost importance.

All the transformational needs of the HUMINT capability are clustered into the idea of developing an HCOE Research Hub, which will comprehensively address research, innovation projects, human capital enhancement, close-quarters combat requirements, adaptation to cognitive warfare, or the HUMINT organizational resilience.

NATO HUMINT COE AT ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

2025 is an anniversary year for HCOE, marking 15 years of active contribution to NATO as an accredited COE, shaping important landmarks in the HUMINT capability development within the full spectrum of DOTMLPFI: doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and interoperability.

Turning back in time, in 2006-2007, everything started with the recognition of lacking a unified approach to HUMINT at the Alliance level. The NATO Military Authorities Intelligence Coordination Group identified this gap and called for a cohesive strategy. Discussions within the NHWG led to the idea of establishing a central hub for HUMINT expertise and interoperability, modeled on the concept of NATO COEs.

The setting up of the HUMINT COE gained strong backing from NATO's Military Intelligence Committee and the Military Intelligence Division at NATO Headquarters. Romania's significant contributions to NATO and coalition operations in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan demonstrated its expertise and commitment, positioning it as the framework nation for this COE; in this context, Romania's General Directorate for Defence Intelligence played a key role, showcasing a coherent vision for adaptable HUMINT capabilities and a proactive role in NATO military intelligence cooperation.

Romania's Parliament approved the establishment of the HUMINT COE on June 26, 2008. Oradea was selected as the location, offering the necessary military infrastructure, a cosmopolitan environment, geographical accessibility, favorable living conditions, and a welcoming atmosphere for foreign personnel. Preparations to set up the new institution were focused on two directions: renovation and upgrade of the designated military barracks to meet the Centre's needs, while the HCOE project team developed foundational documents, including its mission, operational framework, and initial working program, under the supervision of Brigadier General (colonel at that time) Eduard Simion, the first director of the Centre.

On December 16, 2009, the founding documents were signed in Norfolk, USA, by representatives of the Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Romania (host

nation), and four sponsor nations: Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, and Türkiye. Later, Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, and the USA joined the institution. Following evaluation by ACT, the Centre achieved status as an International Military Organization under the 1952 Paris Protocol.

The HCOE was formally inaugurated on March 16, 2010, in Oradea, Romania. The ceremony was attended by Romanian President Traian Băsescu, the Minister of National Defence, the Chief General of Staff, and Admiral Luciano Zappata, representing NATO Allied Command Transformation. Diplomats, military attachés, sponsor nation representatives, senior military officials, and local government representatives also participated, highlighting the event's significance for both military and civilian sectors.

The establishment of the Centre highlighted Romania's commitment to NATO's collective security and operational effectiveness, elevating the country's strategic profile within the Alliance based on its expertise and leadership in military HUMINT. The Centre has become a hub for international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and the development of best practices, contributing to enhanced interoperability and strengthened NATO capabilities.

In the evolution of HCOE, several milestones mark the organization's growth, reflecting the development vision, and adaptations aimed at ensuring institutional



resilience and alignment with the evolving needs of the Alliance:

- ✓ **Accreditation as a NATO-affiliated international military organization**, status periodically reaffirmed through functional audits that attest to the continued relevance of the Centre's products and services in support of NATO.
 - ✓ **Take-over of the NATO HUMINT Working Group and NATO HUMINT Technology Working Group chairmanship and secretariat service**, a decisive point in aligning the groups' agendas and bringing coherence into the NATO HUMINT capability transformation.
 - ✓ **Take-over the custodianship responsibility for NATO HUMINT standardization documents**, capitalizing on the Centre's position within the NATO HUMINT Enterprise and its polyvalent capacity in supporting doctrinal development.
 - ✓ **Accreditation as a NATO education and training facility**, recognized as a provider of certified professional training solutions. This status is also subject to reaccreditation procedures based on quality assurance controls that verify compliance with NATO standards for educational quality.
 - ✓ **Designation as the HUMINT Department Head**, a key stakeholder in the NATO educational management of the HUMINT area (sub-discipline), part of the Intelligence discipline framework.
- ✓ **Revision of operational and functional memoranda of understanding**, aimed at optimizing the organizational structure and associated tasks. A notable outcome is the establishment of the National Support Element, serving as an interface between the HCOE and the legal and resource support framework provided by the host nation, Romania.
 - ✓ **Creation of communities of interest (LL/BP, E&T)** enhancing NATO's HUMINT capabilities by fostering knowledge sharing, innovation, standardization, and interoperability through collaboration on lessons learned and training.
 - ✓ **Updating the strategic plan**, defining a renewed vision and functional orientation for enhanced services supporting NATO.
During this time, three commanding officers have successively served as the Centre's Director, each leaving a distinct mark on the HCOE's performance and reputation within the NATO Centres of Excellence ecosystem and its role in advancing NATO HUMINT capabilities: Brigadier General Eduard SIMION, Brigadier General Florin-Vasile TOMIUC, and Brigadier General Iulian BARBU. In December 2024, the HCOE command was handed over to Colonel Gabriel PASCARIU, an experienced Intelligence officer with a rich professional background.

HUMINT represents the oldest and most elementary form of intelligence activity and will remain equally relevant, regardless of how "smart" and technology-related humanity becomes, as part of the operational environment in an MDO scenario. The intent, motivation, decision-making, feelings, and allegiances 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 pace with the world's multidimensional advance.

The enduring importance of HUMINT is demonstrated by the current conflicts, teaching us important lessons about the dimensions of hybrid warfare, anchored in a mix of past and innovative tactics, techniques, and procedures that equally affect Intelligence collection and processing. Similarly, HUMINT management is challenged in integrating it into complex warfare scenarios, including information/ cognitive campaigns, battle rhythm dynamics, synchronization matrixes, reinforced security and counterintelligence measures, multidimensional coordination, etc.

In 2025, alongside its 15th anniversary, the Centre faces the challenge of a new reaccreditation cycle—both as a NATO COE and as a NATO education and training facility—key milestones in a demanding and ambitious working program. Additionally, the Centre is committed to continuing its work in the standardization area and optimization of HUMINT-related publications, based on research activities for new concept development and experimentation, and integration of the lessons learned and best practices. The Centre will preserve its consistent support for human capital enhancement and interoperability through education and training for the HUMINT professionals, at the same time integrating modern technologies in the HUMINT tradecraft and preparing the HUMINT workforce for the specific challenges of the Multi-Domain Operations.

All these efforts reconfirm the HCOE's position at the core of the NATO HUMINT Enterprise, marking a consistent alignment between its working program and the operational agenda of NHWG and NHTWG.

CONCLUSION

COEs – one of the best examples of Smart Defence projects in NATO – are at the forefront of NATO transformation efforts as key facilitators to increase NATO's strategic military perspectives – strategic awareness, security networking, operational alertness, institutional resilience, and strategic communication. Furthermore, as the security environment has tremendously evolved, COEs' coverage on various subjects is gradually increasing, addressing emerging and critical areas of expertise.

Equally, COEs' contribution to the Warfare Development Agenda, especially through participation in working groups and wargames related to NATO's Digital Transformation and Cross-Domain Command, towards a Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)-enabled Alliance, is praised at the highest level of the Alliance.

To ensure HUMINT effectiveness in countering hybrid warfare and asymmetric threats, the NATO HUMINT community of interest follows incremental steps of capability transformation. In this endeavor, HCOE plays a pivotal role, ensuring a synergy of the efforts and prioritization of resources to swiftly ensure resilience in responding to the challenges of the dynamic and complex nature of contemporary conflicts.



HCOE Command take-over ceremony

Since its establishment, HCOE has demonstrated exceptional responsiveness to the Alliance's support requests, serving for more than 15 years as an active and decisive force in fostering the HUMINT community of interest within NATO and implementing a comprehensive program for developing NATO's HUMINT capability. Through the quality of its contributions to the Intelligence transformation process and the visibility of its projects within NATO's command and force structures, as well as its relations with Allied nations, the institution has managed to establish itself as a leading force in the field, significantly contributing to the enhancement of interoperability and operational efficiency of the Alliance in the HUMINT domain.

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.

The 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.

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 the Army Sports Club, also being called “STEUA” – nowadays famous worldwide.

On April 9th, 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. And it is enough to remember the name of Iolanda BALAȘ in order to have a clear image of the success of this unit over the years.

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 practiced on a very large scale among the armed force. 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 7th 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



Romanian world champion at athletics, Iolanda Balaș



Steaua Bucharest rowing team



The European Champions Cup winning 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 Brânză

value of this unit. In 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 – 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, 45 world medals and 102 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 won by Camelia Potec at Athens ,at the 2004 Olympic Games , 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 would 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 up to present, 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 146 medals won at Universiade and World University Championships, 384 medals at the CISM and Spartachiade Military Championships, and also over 13,500 national titles! At team level, the most important trophy was added on May 7th, 1986, by the football team that won the European Champions Cup.

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



Dinu Loredana, Simona Gherman, Simona Pop and Ana Maria Brânză Popescu – STEAUA Bucharest fencing team



Water polo team



Gymnast Ana Maria Bărbosu

with Dynamo Kiev, in Monte Carlo, a goal scored by Gheorghe Hagi.

NOTABLE RESULTS IN 2024

In the 2024 Olympic year, Steaua’s athletes shone in the arenas of Paris. Our performers contributed to six out of the 9 medals won by Romania at the 2024 Olympic Games.

Rowing was the queen sport. At the Vaires-sur-Marne Olympic Stadium, Andrei CORNEA (men’s double sculls), Simona RADIȘ, Ioana VRÎNCEANU, Magdalena RUSU and Adriana ADAM (women’s eight) won the gold, and Simona RADIȘ (women’s double sculls), Ioana VRÎNCEANU (women’s coxless pair) and Gianina VAN GRONINGEN (women’s lightweight double sculls) climbed to the second step of the podium.

In 2024, the athletes of Steaua Bucuresti continued to achieve important results at world and continental competitions.



Cătălin Chirilă, canoe team



Andreea Ana, athlete

Alina Rotaru, at Budapest World Athletics Championship



There were other rowers who entered the top 6 in the world, contributing to Romania's record of Olympic medals: Florin ARTENI (4th place - men's coxless pair), Adriana ADAM, Magdalena RUSU (women's coxless four), Ciprian TUDOSĂ (5th place - men's coxless four), Constantin ADAM, Mugurel SEMCIUC (men's eight).

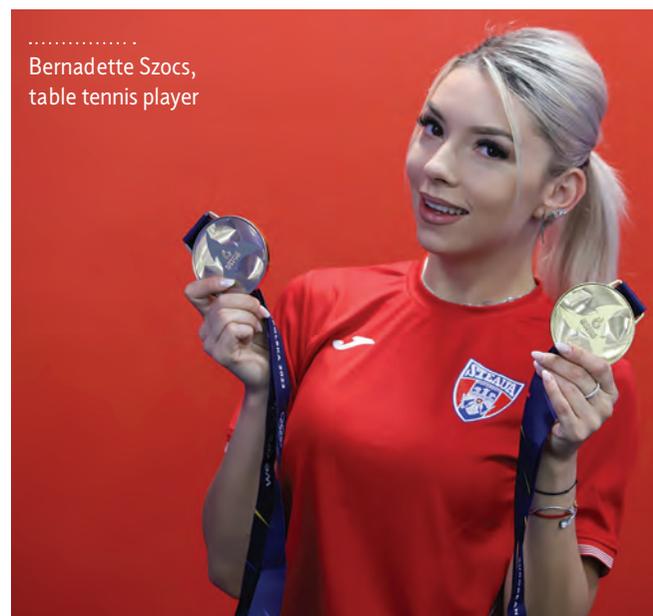
Gymnastics returned to the Olympic podium after a 12 years break, thanks to Steaua's athlete, Ana BĂRBOSU, who won bronze in the floor competition (women's floor).

Steaua Bucharest was the club with the most athletes qualified for Paris Olympics 2024, no less than 42! In addition to the medallists, there were also other notable results. The marathon runner, Delvine Relin MERINGO, ranked 7th in the hardest event of the athletic competition, while Alina ROTARU also ranked 7th in the long jump.

The only team present at Paris Olympics 2024 was the water polo team. Steaua Bucharest had 9 members of the national team prepared by Bogdan RATH, the technician of the military team.

There were other notable results in 2024. Bernadette SZOCS entered the world's top 10 players, rising to ITTF Number 8th. Berni won two silver medals at the European Championships Linz 2024 in the women's singles and doubles events. It was not the last success for Bernadette. At the Fukuoka Champions Tournament (Japan), she won the bronze medal.

At the European Rowing Championships in Szeged, Steaua's athletes won 4 gold medals: Ioana VRÎNCEANU (women's coxless pair), Andrei CORNEA (men's double sculls), Simona RADIȘ, Ioana VRÎNCEANU, Magdalena RUSU and Adriana ADAM (women's eight), Simona



.....
Bernadette Szocs,
table tennis player

RADIȘ (women's double sculls) and one silver medal: Florin ARTENI (men's coxless pair).

Beatrice ANA (weight 55 kg) won gold at the European Championships in Bucharest at wrestling, while Kateryna ZELENYKH (weight 65 kg) won the silver medal. Katerina also became world vice-champion in the Tirana (Albania) Competition.

Swimmer Remus BADEA is one of the great hopes of Romanian sports. Steaua's junior became double European champion in Vilnius (Lithuania), setting national records in the 200 and 400 meter mixed events.

Cătălin Chirilă became continental champion in the 1-1.000 meters canoe race at the European Championships in Szeged (Hungary).

Steaua Bucharest Water Polo Team won the 20th national men's title, and the women's team gained trophy number 7.

The Army Sports Club Steaua Bucharest does not focus only on performance. The club from the Ghencea Boulevard also values on the initiation programs and supports it by developing units where the future champions are being formed. Athletics, horse riding, football, gymnastics, swimming, fencing, field tennis and shooting are the sports every child is initiated in, guided and provided with all the conditions to become the tomorrow's champion of the Steaua Club.

The beginner training is initiated under the guidance of highly trained coaches, many of them former champions, at the club's bases in Bucharest – Ghencea Boulevard, Calea Plevnei and from the country – Săftica and Forban.

We are a family, we are strong, WE ARE INVICTUS

RECOVERY THROUGH SPORTS – THE WAY THE INJURED SOLDIERS REGAIN THEIR BALANCE

After the silence that falls over the battlefield, the hardest confrontation begins for some of the soldiers: the fight for life, for dignity and for a new beginning. For those injured in missions, sports is not just a form of movement – it is a powerful ally in the process of physical and mental recovery, a path to regaining self-confidence, emotional balance and a sense of belonging.

By participating in sports and cultural events dedicated to recovery and reintegration, these people not only rebuild their lives, but become models of determination for the entire society. In this landscape, the Invictus Games represent a symbol of rebirth through battle – a space where wounded soldiers from all over the world meet not as victims, but as fighters. Romania consistently participates in these games, with teams made up of veterans injured in the theaters of operations, true ambassadors of resilience.

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Romania's team at the Opening Ceremony of „Invictus Games Vancouver & Whistler”



ROMANIA AT THE INVICTUS GAMES VANCOUVER & WHISTLER 2025

Between 8 and 16 February, 2025, in Vancouver & Whistler, Canada, the Romanian Armed Forces' team participated for the fifth time in the Invictus Games international sports competition, dedicated to supporting the physical and mental recovery of soldiers injured in military operations. The event brought together participants from 23 countries – under the sign of solidarity, dignity and the spirit of victory.

Romania was represented by a military delegation led by Major General Valentin Brînzei, Director of the Defence Staff, present throughout the games as head of the delegation.

The Romanian soldiers competed in 7 individual disciplines – alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing and biathlon, curling, skeleton, swimming, indoor rowing – and one team discipline – sitting volleyball. The results obtained, although not the main goal of these games, increased our country's reputation: 9 medals, 3 of which were gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze.

Some of the team members who took the idea of “invincible” beyond words – such as Private Raul Mirică and retired Sergeant Major Daniel Porumb, both medallists and strong supporters of recovery through sports.

RAUL MIRICĂ – THE COURAGE TO REBORN

The youngest member of the Invictus Romania team, Private Raul Mirică, was seriously injured in 2023, when he was 19 years old, during a TNT charge ignition session. As a result of the explosion, Raul lost his right eye sight and suffered amputations on both hands. He underwent an overwhelming number of surgeries and went through months of hospitalization and painful recovery.

His family and Invictus comrades came to his aid, restoring his hope, confidence and love for sports. In just a few months, Raul learned to ski, swim, play volleyball and boarding. He overcame fear, isolation and rediscovered himself through competition and with the help of his community. “At the time of the accident, I thought everything was lost. But my colleagues and family helped me to reborn. Sports helped me get



Romanian competitor at the end of skeleton racing

Private Raul Mirică, playing sitting volleyball



Sitting volleyball game between Romania and Columbia



Romania's team along side the technical staff at the return ceremony from IGWW

through the difficult moments. I'm glad I didn't give up."

In Vancouver, Raul competed at four disciplines: snowboarding, swimming, curling and sitting volleyball. He won two medals – silver and bronze – and became an emblem of hope and determination for the entire team.

DANIEL PORUMB – THE STRENGTH TO MOVE ON

The captain of the Romanian team, retired Sergeant Major Daniel Porumb, was wounded in Iraq in 2007, suffering a cervical spinal cord injury that has kept him in a wheelchair ever since. Over the last 17 years, Daniel has been fighting a daily battle – with pain, with limitations, but especially with prejudice.



(Ret.) Sergeant Major Porumb Daniel during the 4 minute rowing race alongside his coach, injured Command Sergeant Major Mănăilă Eugen

He graduated a university, has two master's degrees, and became a benchmark of dignity and inner strength. He joined the Invictus team with a clear desire: to demonstrate that disability does not mean the end of the road. At the Invictus Games 2025 he competed in adaptive skiing, indoor rowing and curling, bringing Romania 2 gold medals at indoor rowing and 1 bronze medal at adaptive skiing.

“The real victory is not the medal, but the strength to move on. We do not stop here. We will continue our recovery through sports and we want our example to inspire.” – is the encouragement that Daniel conveys to us.

INVICTUS MEANS NEVER GIVING UP

The participation of wounded soldiers in the Invictus Games Vancouver & Whistler 2025 shows the world that the power of the spirit can overcome pain, and sports can heal unseen wounds. These injured soldiers are not just competitors, but ambassadors of Romania to the world, bearers of stories that inspire and motivate.



Sightless Master Sergeant Iovi Marius during alpine skiing race

Invictus is not about defeat, but about the struggle to rise. It is not about medals, but about regaining dignity. It is not about limits, but about overcoming them.

True winners don't just wear uniforms, they also have the courage to start over.

Romania's team alongside the technical staff at the return ceremony from IGWW



ROMANIA – member of CLIMS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CLIMS

The Comité de Liaison International des Organismes Militaires Sociaux (CLIMS) is an international organization whose aim is the organization, on reciprocal basis, of the holidays of the active, reserve, retired military and civilian personnel and war veterans from the member states' defence ministries.

At the initiative of the four founding countries (France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands) the CLIMS members decided to conclude the Agreement of 22 April 1975. A Liaison Committee was created for this purpose, the signatory parties deciding to meet regularly to develop the projects they conduct and supervise for the benefit of their nations.

CLIMS consists of 12 member countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Spain, Hungary, Romania and Greece.

The importance of CLIMS resides in being not only a treaty written on paper, but in creating inter-personal relationships and cultural exchanges among the soldiers of the NATO member countries, thus contributing to a better reciprocal awareness of the spiritual and moral values of these nations.

Therefore, CLIMS has the following main objectives:

- ✓ Development of inter-personal relationships among the soldiers of the member countries, by organizing recreational and recovery activities;
- ✓ Formulation of common principles for the general management and internal running of international camps organized for the youth of the families benefitting from CLIMS program and development of these international camps;

ROMANIA – HOST COUNTRY FOR THREE CLIMS MEETINGS AND AN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

- ✓ *Spring meeting in Bucharest (16th-19th April, 2007)*
- ✓ *Autumn meeting in Braşov (September 26th-30th, 2011)*
- ✓ *Autumn meeting in Sibiu (September 24th-27th, 2018)*
- ✓ *International CLIMS Camp, Sibiu (July 29th – August 12th, 2023).*



.....
Bucharest, capital city of Romania

- ✓ Potential implementation of other types of joint social projects for families and young people;
- ✓ Better mutual understanding of the procedures and operating methods of the social military organizations involved.

In October 2004, at the CLIMS autumn meeting in Balatonkenese, Hungary, an official delegation of the Romanian Armed Forces filed an application to join the organization. Thus, Romania became an “observer” country and a Romanian military delegation was invited to attend the autumn meeting of the Committee.

Throughout the period when Romania had the “observer” status, there were exchanges of military groups with Hungary and Poland. Also, eight out of the eleven members sent delegations of experts to our country to evaluate the locations and services that the Romanian Armed Forces made available to foreign partners.

As of 11 October 2005, following the unanimous vote of the eleven member countries, Romania became the

twelfth full member of the committee at the CLIMS Autumn Meeting which took place in Rynia, Poland.

In 2019, by the casting vote of the member countries, Colonel Cozmin MARINESCU took over the Presidency of the International Liaison Committee of the Social Military Organizations.

CLIMS organizes two meetings each year. During these meetings, bilateral sessions take place, each country having the opportunity to present its updated offers of holidays, recreation and recovery for the military personnel and their families. Also, cooperation principles are established in the field of holidays on a mutual basis.

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES IN ROMANIA

The Romanian Armed Forces provide foreign partners with recreation facilities in mountain resorts (Braşov – Cultural and Social Assistance Resort No. 1,



.....
Braşov City,
Transylvania

Sinaia – Work Capacity Recovery Center, Predeal – Military Compound and Sibiu – Cultural Resort and Social Assistance Resort No. 2), as well as on the Black Sea Coast, at Cap Aurora (in Agat, Rubin, Coral Hotels) and at Eforie Sud. Foreign partners can also visit the Romanian capital city. For this option, accommodation and meals are provided by the MoND “Haiducului” Military Compound.

The quality standards and services provided by our locations rise to the level required by the soldiers and the families of the foreign partners who spend their holidays in Romania.

BUCHAREST

Bucharest is the capital and largest city of Romania, as well as its cultural, industrial, and financial centre. It is located in the southeast of the country, on the banks of Dâmboviţa River, at less than 60 km (37.3 mi) north of the Danube River and the Bulgarian border.

The city has a number of large facilities, educational institutions, cultural venues,

traditional ‘shopping arcades’ and recreational areas.

The city is administratively known as the “Municipality of Bucharest” and has the same administrative level as that of a national county, being further subdivided into six districts, each governed by a local mayor.

MOUNTAIN SIDE

Braşov (German: *Kronstadt*; Hungarian: *Brassó*; Latin: *Corona*; Transylvanian Saxon: *Kruhnen*) is a city in Transylvania, Romania and the administrative centre of Braşov County.

Braşov is located in the central part of the country, at about 166 km (103 mi) north of Bucharest and 380 km (236 mi) far from the Black Sea. It is surrounded by the Southern Carpathians and is part of the historical region of Transylvania.

Sinaia is a town and a mountain resort in Prahova County, Romania. It is situated in the historical region of Muntenia. The town was named after the Sinaia Monastery in 1695, around

which it was built. The monastery, in turn, is named after the Biblical Mount Sinai. King Carol I of Romania also built his summer residence, Peleş Castle, in Sinaia in the late nineteenth century.

Sinaia is located at about 65 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of Ploieşti and 48 kilometres (30 miles) south of Braşov, in a mountainous area on the Prahova River Valley, just east of the Bucegi Mountains. The town's altitude varies between 767 to 860 metres (2,516 to 2,822 feet) above sea level.

The city is a popular destination for hiking and winter sports, especially downhill skiing. Among the tourist landmarks, the most important are Peleş Castle, Pelişor Castle, Sinaia Monastery, Sinaia Casino, Sinaia train station, and the Franz Joseph and Saint Anne Cliffs. Sinaia was also the summer residence of the Romanian composer George Enescu, who stayed at the Luminiiş Villa.

Predeal is a resort town in Transylvania region, in Braşov County. An important mountain resort, Predeal is located on the Prahova Valley and is surrounded by four mountain massifs: Postăvarul, Piatra Mare, Bucegi, and Baiului. The name is derived from the Slavic word “predel”, which means “border”, as here was the border crossing between Wallachia and Austria-Hungary before 1918. In the late years, the town has known a remarkable boom in construction, many well-off people from all over the country owing a mountain retreat in Predeal. Predeal is the highest town in Romania with an altitude varying between 1033 m–1110 m.

THE BLACK SEA COAST

Cap Aurora is a small Romanian summer-time seaside resort in Mangalia Municipality, Constanţa County. It is located between the neighboring resorts of Jupiter and Venus, also within the municipality.

Eforie Sud is part of Eforie city, Constanţa County, Romania. It is geographically located on the west coast of the Black Sea. It is a holiday resort known for its therapeutic treatments. It was called “Carmen Sylva”, after the literary pseudonym of Queen Elisabeth of Romania between the two World Wars.



Peleş Castle, Sinaia



Predeal, Prahova Valley



Cap Aurora Resort, Mangalia Municipality



Eforie Sud, Constanţa Municipality

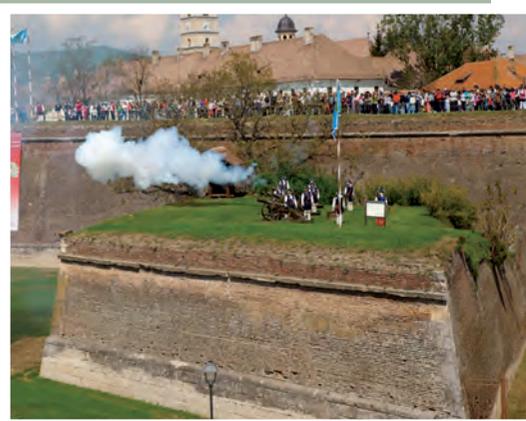
ROMANIA – Explore the Carpathian Garden

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 14th-18th 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-NĂSĂUD 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 Sângeorz-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 monastic life.
- Dorohoi – the “George Enescu” Memorial Museum, the Princely Church Ensemble, the Museum of Natural Sciences, St Nicholas Church.

BOTOȘANI COUNTY



- 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.

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, Crâng Park.
- Vulcanii Noroioși, 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

- 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 km².
- Buciumeni Monastery – one of the oldest monastic settlements in the county, dating from the first half of the 15th century.



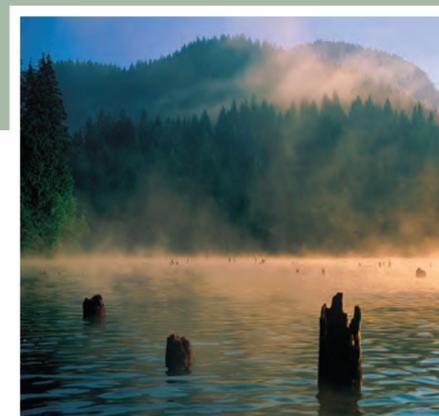
GORJ COUNTY

- 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 Transalpin Highway (142 km), the tallest road in Romania.



HARGHITA COUNTY

- 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).



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 “Anastasia 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 (Balotesti).



- 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.

MARAMUREȘ 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.

MEHEDIŢI COUNTY



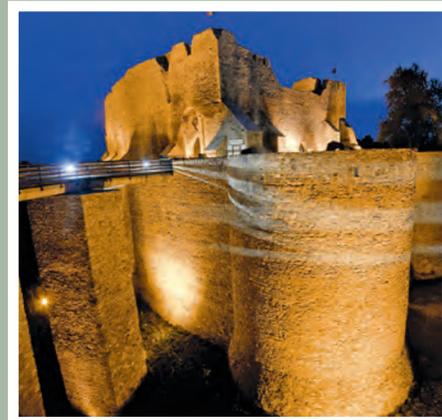
MUREȘ COUNTY

- Târgu Mureș (county capital) – The Palace of Culture, the Roses' Square, the medieval fortress with the Reformed Church, the Toldalagi Baroque Palace, the Mureș the 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 Poroineanu” Park, the “Iancu Jianu” Memorial House.
- Brâncoveni Monastery – built in the 16th 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 – Peleș 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.



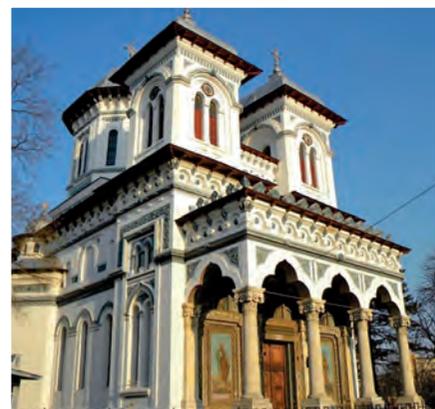
SUCEAVA COUNTY

- 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.
- Transrău – 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.



TIMIȘ COUNTY

- 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.



TULCEA 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.).



VASLUI 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 at the site of the important 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.

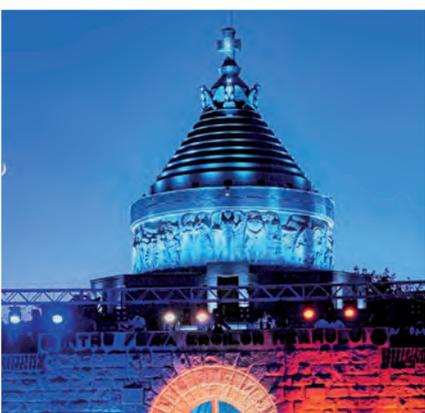


VÂLCEA COUNTY



- 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 km²

✓ THE LENGTH OF FRONTIERS:

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

✓ POPULATION:

19.053.815 (2023)

✓ CAPITAL:

Bucharest, 1.716.983 inhabitants (2021)

✓ FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

Republic

✓ OFFICIAL TIME:

Eastern European Time (GMT + 2). From the last
Sunday of March (31st) to last Sunday of October (27th)
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:

LEU (abbreviation: RON)

1 EURO aprox. 5 RON; 1 USD aprox. 4.33 RON

✓ FLAG:

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

✓ NATIONAL DAY:

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

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