



ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

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1. OCTOBER 25 – ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES' DAY

Romania had a great contribution to the UN war effort after August 23rd, 1944. The Romanian army fought away the German troops from the territory controlled by the Romanian government, killing 5,048 enemy soldiers and taking 56,455 prisoners. The strategic defence of the borders and of the temporary Romanian-Hungarian separation line imposed by the Vienna Diktat of August 30th, 1940 was also achieved.

The offensive for the liberation of the north-eastern part of Romania started on October 9th, 1944 and its goal was reached between 21st and 25th October, when the enemy forces were fought out of Carei and Satu Mare towns and across the Romanian-Hungarian border, on October 25th, 1944. On October 25th, at dawn, after heavy battles, this Romanian locality at the western border was liberated. The Romanian forces continued their advance and, during that same morning, they reached the Romanian-Hungarian border in several points, crossed it and went on fighting, deep into the Hungarian territory.

In the aftermath of WW II, the Romanian Armed Forces' Day was initially set for October 2, but, since 1959, it was changed to October 25 – the day when we succeeded to free the Romanian territory, a territory temporarily occupied as a result of the Vienna Diktat, in August 1940.



On October 25, 2005, the Ministry of National Defence celebrates the Armed Forces' Day, organizing several events and ceremonies in Bucharest and throughout the country.

2. ROMANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF CENCOOP STEERING COMMITTEE

A Romanian delegation headed by State Secretary and Chief of the Department for Euroatlantic Integration and Defence Policy, Ioan Mircea Plangu, participated in the Defence Ministerial of CENCOOP member countries that took place between October 20 and 21 in Zagreb, Croatia. On this occasion, Romania took over the chairmanship of the Steering Committee of the CENCOOP Regional Initiative.

This initiative started in 1998 in the spirit of the UN standby forces and was founded by Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary. In 1999 the initiative extended to include Switzerland while Croatia is the most recent member. The Czech Republic and Ukraine are partner nations.

3. EUROPEAN ARMIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Chief of the Romanian Army Staff, Lieutenant General Dr. Ioan Sorin, participated in the 13th European Armies Annual Conference on the "Role of the Land Forces in the Fight against Terrorism", organised between 19-21 October in Heidelberg, Germany. Thirtyseven representatives of NATO and partner nations attended the conference.

"The Romanian soldiers' successes within the international coalition against terrorism are strong arguments for our commitment to promote and defend the democratic values and to support the post-conflict stabilization processes", said Lieutenant General Ioan Sorin.

The Chief of Romanian Army Staff also had a bilateral meeting with his U.S. counterpart, General Peter Schoomaker.

4. "THE BLACK SCORPIONS"



The commander of the Multinational Division South East, Major General James Dutton, visited the 20th Infantry Battalion "The Black Scorpions", assigned to „Antica Babilonia", in Camp Mittica, on October 22.

The Romanian battalion commander spoke of the capabilities of the detachment in his command and its missions, of the risks and threats in their area of responsibility and the cooperation with the local authorities and population.

At the end of his visit, General Dutton learnt that the Romanian soldiers were preparing to celebrate the day of their armed forces and congratulated them on this occasion.

He also said he was grateful for the Romanian soldiers' efforts and success in improving the Iraqi people's living conditions and for their contribution to building democracy in Iraq.

5. EXPOMIL 2005

The 4th International Military Equipment Exhibition, EXPOMIL 2005, organised by ROMARM and Patromil, with the support of the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, was held in Bucharest, between 20 to 23 October.

Out of the 156 participants, 87 were Romanian and 69 were foreign companies, representing 20 countries: Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, U.K., Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America, Sweden and Turkey.



This year's edition covered a wide range of Army, Navy and Air Force systems and equipment, C3I systems, mines, NBC and perimeter security systems, defence systems and weapons, main equipment and facilities for mission support, protection, security, survival and risk, uniforms, individual equipment and clothing.

A novelty was the live firing session with light infantry weapons, organised in the "Mihai Bravu" Firing Range. Dynamic presentations of wheeled and tracked armored vehicles were also made in rough terrain conditions.