

**magazine**

**#7**

# **TACTICA**

**Black Sea Rotational Force  
Platinum Lynx 15.1**

**SAS  
Constanta  
Eurasian  
Partnership  
Dive 14**





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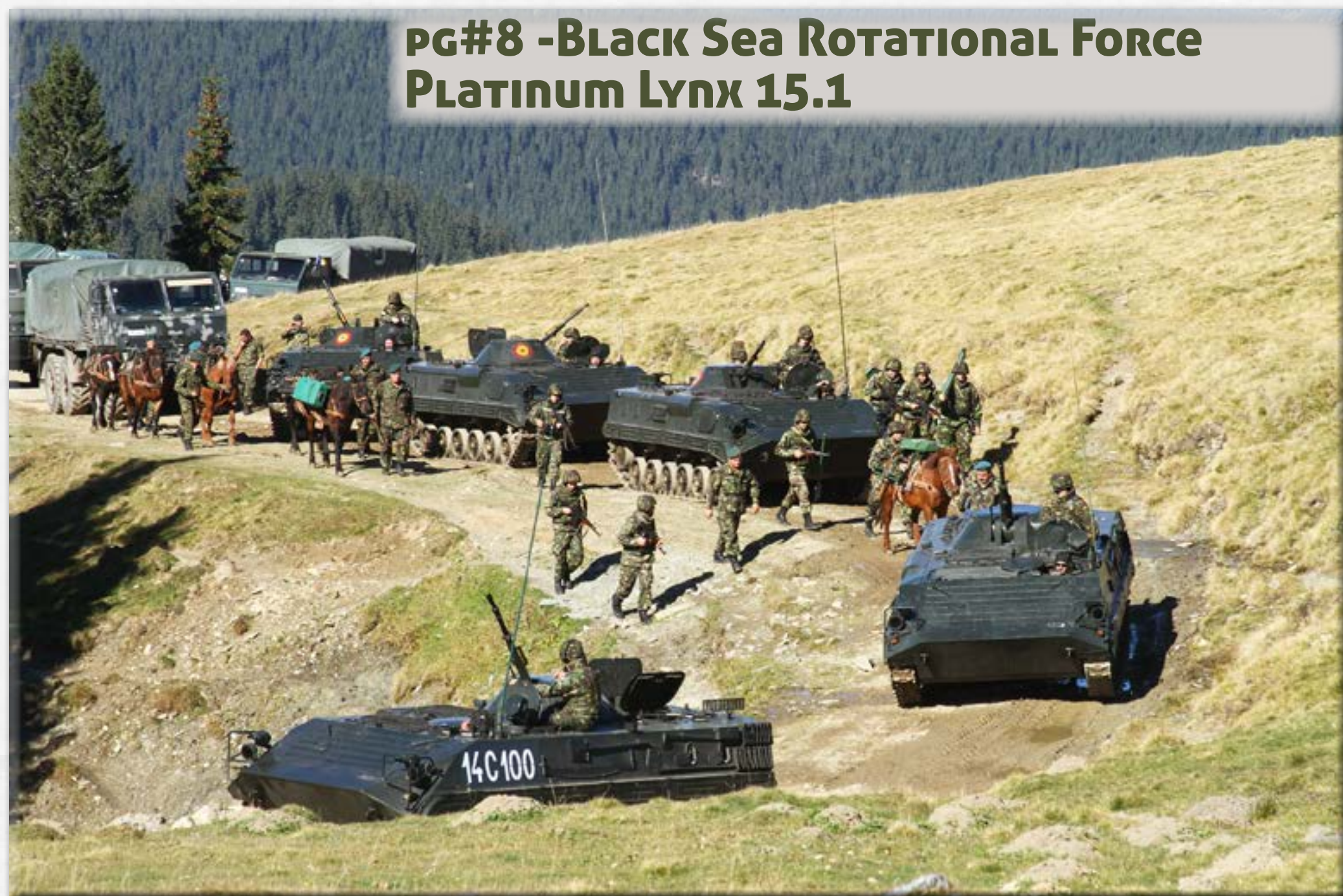


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**PUBLISHER**  
Drăgan M Marcela II  
[www.revistatactica.ro](http://www.revistatactica.ro)

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Marcella Drăgan  
0040 745 938 006  
[marcelladragan@yahoo.com](mailto:marcelladragan@yahoo.com)

**MARKETING &  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
[revistatactica@gmail.com](mailto:revistatactica@gmail.com)  
<http://eepurl.com/Xjgh9>

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Marcella Drăgan  
<http://wp.me/P2lznb-270>

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## *The first English issue*

We're back after a break in which we prepared a series of changes. Some of these changes can be seen in the future issues, some, small, are already visible in this one.

But the biggest change is the English issue of *Tactica Magazine*.

One thing has not changed nor will change: the topics that you find in the magazine. As before, the magazine will be a gateway to the world of the military.

In this world you reconvene with Romanian Mountain Brigade who were hosts and training partners for a unit of US Marines from Black Sea Rotational Force. In a new module, Lynx Platinum 15.1, held in Vatra Dornei, soldiers from 61 Brigade Mountain Brigade „General Virgil Badulescu” met the US Marines from Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.

You will meet some of the fighters from Constanta Special Action Service, which I accompanied throughout the day workout. You can find out how they spend „a day at the office” and how they train to always be prepared for the tasks they perform.

We arrived at the sea, along with Romanian and American divers who, in the multinational exercise Eurasian Partnership Dive 14, have shared their knowledge of the procedures and standards of NATO to the participating partners, future member NATO.

Enjoy your reading and, if you like the magazine, you can follow us on line and recommend it to the ones passionate about the military world!

Marcella Drăgan





## SHEPHERD LAZARUS BOZGA AND RESPECT FOR HEROES



A detachment of 817 Artillery Battalion „Petru Rares”, led by Lieutenant Colonel Octavian Cioanca participated in a military and religious ceremony at the Monument of Heroes, located on the Gruicul Mare Peak, Dornisoara Mountains, and part of the Calimani Range.

The Architectural work of Gruicul Mare Peak is dedicated to the 60 Romanian heroes (41 identified and 19 remained unknown) serving under 56 Battalion Border, who were executed by Austro-Hungarian military authorities during the First World War.

The mass grave where the 60 Romanian soldiers whose lives were so cowardly taken, was

*Text: Major Cosmin Radoaie,  
Photo from Monument Gruicu Mare: sergeant Dan Herghelegiu,  
Photo from Monument Prundu Bargaului: sergeant Marius Strat  
Divizia 4 Infanterie "Gemina"*





discovered by shepherd Lazar Bozga, when the melting snows and spring rains in 1917 allowed the fallen heroes' bones to come to the surface. Lazar Bozga initially buried the remains and placed on their grave a crucifix to signify remembrance. Then, in 1986, he erected a small memorial stone on which he inscribed „60 Romanian soldiers who died for the Motherland”. Finally under the care of His Eminence Bartolomeu Anania, the actual monument was built in 2005.

The 41 heroes identified were from Vatra Dornei, Dorna Candreni, Poiana Stampei and Falticeni. Identification was made by military doctors who were operating in campaign hospitals in Dornisoara and Tihuta, during 1916-1918.

For decades, every year, on Heroes Day and again in late August, the family of Lazar Bozga, along with other local people climb the 1,800 meters peak of Gruicul Mare to pay homage to the fallen heroes.

At the same time, to commemorate The Heroes' Day, soldiers from 817 Artillery Battalion „Petru Rares”, together with representatives of local authorities, organized a series of commemoratives events at the Heroes Monument from Prundu Bargaului.

It is our duty to pay tribute to all the soldiers who, throughout history, have fought for freedom, national unity and territorial integrity and with dedication have served Romania. For them, a duty to the country under the tricolor flag, was the ultimate goal.







## Black Sea Rotational Force

### PLATINUM LYNX 15.1

*Text & photo: Marcella Drăgan*





***The multinational Black Sea Rotational Force Platinum Lynx 15.1 exercise with troops in the field and live fire, signified a prime opportunity for the Romanian Mountain Rangers Unit and US Marines to train together.***



The latest module, hosted by 17th Mountain Rangers Battalion „Dragos Voda” and held in the Rarau Mountains and Rotunda Gorge, brought together servicemen from 61 Mountain Rangers Brigade „General Virgil Badulescu” - 22nd Mountain Rangers Battalion 22 „Ciresoia” from Sfantu Gheorghe and 24th Mountain Rangers Battalion „General George Avramescu” from Miercurea Ciuc – and US Marines from Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment.







The servicemen from the two partner countries trained together for nearly one week, sharing their knowledge of weapons and equipment, procedures and techniques, and movements, and the combat required in harsh terrains such as forest and mountain environments. The last part of the exercise involved defending a foothold in which Romanian Mountain Rangers and US Marines trained side by side, forming mixed teams



that prepared and led defense operations. The counterattack also involved helicopters from 95 Air Base „Hero aviator Captain Alexander Serbanescu” of Bacau.

The first day of the exercise focused on soldiers becoming better familiar with the respective armies' military ranks, technique and armament, the second day signaled the start of the actual training in which US Marines were introduced to mountain and alpine techniques. Once in the Rarau Mountains, they trained with equipment specific





I accompanied the Mountain Rangers from 24th Battalion „General George Avramescu”, with which we went, on the first day of instruction in Rodna Mountains, in a march towards the glacial lake Lala and Ineu Peak. We were led by Sergeant-Major Nicolae Olar from 17th Mountain Rangers Battalion, who guided us on the 15 km route. We reached Lala Lake which is at an altitude of 1,815 meters and the servicemen from the 22nd Mountain Rangers

to military mountaineering and learned from the Romanian Mountain Rangers modern methods of free climbing and rappelling, funicular and rope transportation and MEDEVAC of wounded and military equipment.

The next two days were the most intense for both the US and the Romanian servicemen, as in these two days they conducted the live-fire exercises and the mountain marches, each of the two Mountain Rangers Battalions taking half of US Marines.







with a 120 mm caliber mortar, joined by the 81 mm mortar platoon of the US Marines. Fighting simulation continued with the introduction of scouts who rappelled into locations from IAR 330 Puma SOCAT helicopters. The soldiers were successful in their mission, which was to secure a command point, then to install and secure an observation post.

The next assignment was the installation of the support point

Battalion „Ciresoia”, who made the trail the next day, arrived at Ineu Peak (elevation 2279 meters).

The fourth day of the exercise brought the Romanian and American servicemen in Rotunda fire range, to conduct a field exercise with troops and live-fire. Following a tactical scenario, a support company executed fire







and fighting devices. Using the horses from the hypo company of 22 MT Battalion „Ciresoaia”, the AG-9 grenade launchers and 82 mm mortars were transported to the firing positions, and fire was executed against enemy positions. Romanians were joined by the 81 mm and 60 mm mortars of the Marines, covering the flanks of the Mountain Rangers Company. Air support was requested, and the helicopters from 95 Base returned to attack



enemy positions. During this time, the Marines succeeded in stopping and destroying the enemy's infiltration into the defense positions. After stopping the enemy, the US military joined the Mountain Rangers boarded on the MLVM (combat vehicles specific for Mountain Rangers) for the final counter-attack. The last point of the exercise included



# IN THE FIELD IN THE FIELD IN THE FIELD



again the helicopters from the 95 Base, which executed a MEDEVAC mission, evacuating the wounded from the battle field, action that completed the exercise.

For the Romanian military, trainings in mountainous areas are a regular task. But for the US Marines the simulation was a novel experience that gave them the opportunity to learn new things and share their knowledge. „Many of the Marines learned from Romanian Mountain Rangers rock climbing techniques and modern methods of free climbing and rappelling, funicular transport of wounded and military equipment. They also taught us mechanized infantry tactics. We showed them our method of engagement by sharing methods of conducting fire and maneuver,” said Captain Matthew Deffenbaugh, Weapons Company Commander, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines, Black Sea Rotational Force.

The last day of the BSRF brought together all the participants, this time not for training, but for a cultural program that showed them some of the attractions of Bukovina: Cacica Salt Mine, Moldovita Monastery and the International Painted Eggs Museum from Moldovita.

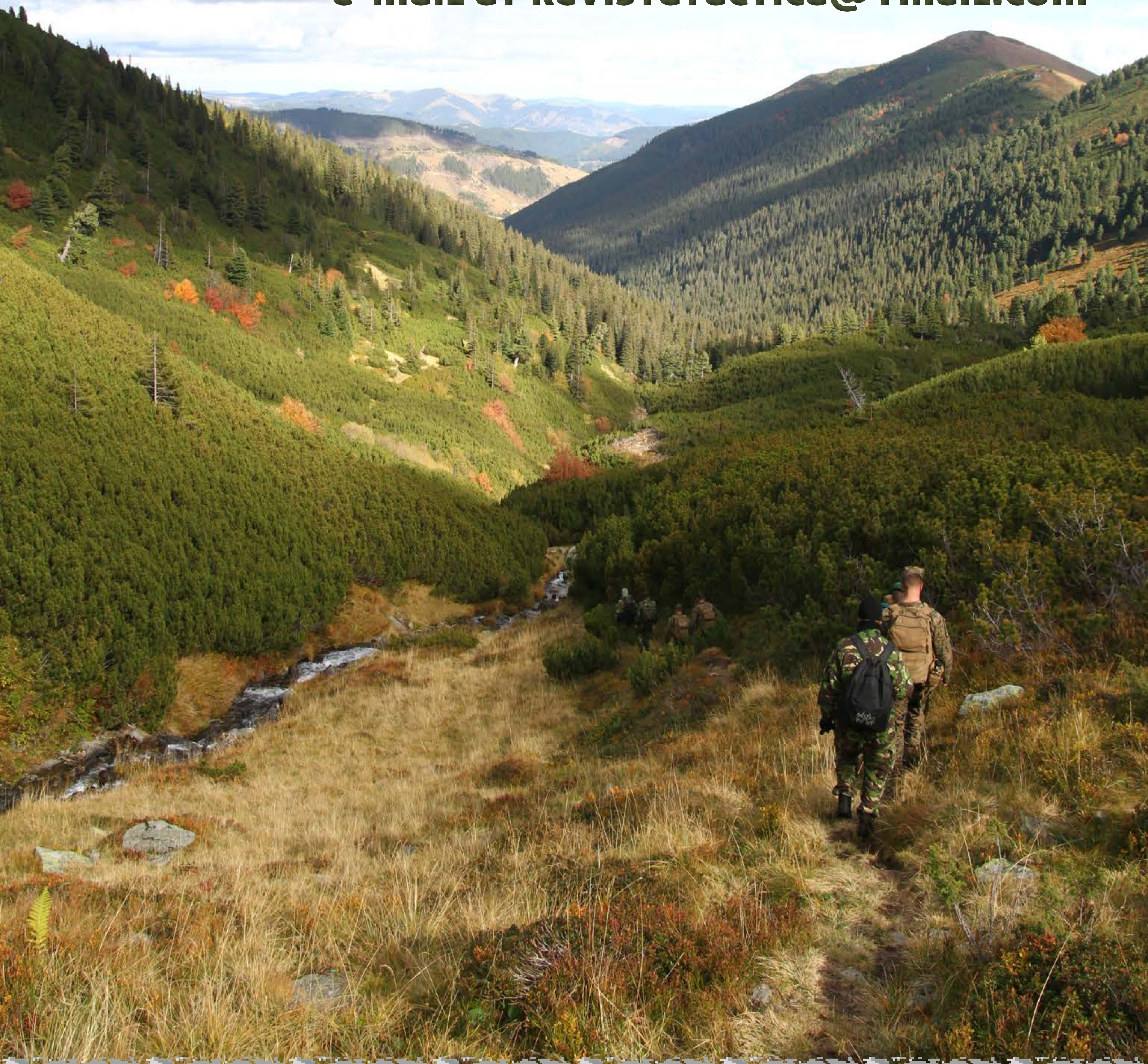




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# RARĂU RADICAL RACE





RARAU RADICAL RACE, a marathon contest using competitive events such as mountain trail running and mountain bike racing to help promote the Bucovina region, drew in numerous tourists and participants.

The mountain biking competition (MBT) was held in the Rarau Mountains on September 6 and the 27th brought the trail-running competition.

The contest aimed to encourage outdoor and extreme sports in Romania; to strengthen human relations based on fair play and mutual respect; to promote the most picturesque locations as well as the marked and unmarked walking trails scattered throughout the Rarau Mountain area, all set in the heart of Bucovina.

The MBT employed two routes, distances of 65 and 35 kilometers, respectively, which traveled the Rarau area, reaching the peak of Rarau located at an elevation of 1651 m. Two routes likewise composed the trail marathon, the lengthier reaching nearly 35 km, and the shorter around 2 km.

The start and the end of the marathons were in Campulung Central Market in the city, where the Awards Ceremony was also held.

*photos by Ovidiu Stefeliga*  
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**FROM THE INSIDE FROM THE INSIDE**

# **Special Action Service Constanta**



*Text & photo: Marcella Drăgan*

*They train hard,  
they fight tough,  
and they love it.  
This is the truth  
that stands at the  
end of a day spent  
with the fighters  
from the Special  
Action Service  
Constanta from  
County Police  
Inspectorate.*





# FROM THE INSIDE FROM THE INSIDE



The day starts first thing in the morning with a hard run designed to increase the fighters' stamina and toughen their resistance to abrupt and extended physical strain. Often this workout comes complete with all the equipment and gear they would carry or wear as if they were in a live situation. The day continues with further physical training in the gym, where a short warm-up session prepares them for yet more strenuous, strength-building workouts that follow. Featuring highly among these are cardio exercises, notably boxing, used not only for cardio workout but to sharpen self-defense skills, as one fighter explains: „teaches you to hit very well, hard, accurate, fast, combined with a good physical condition and high level endurance.”



The training continues with focus on more technical aspects, such as boxing bag kicking, dodging, pirouettes, endurance competition pertaining to force, and generating high levels of hits. A short break is for equipment change that makes way for the martial arts training kicks and immobilizations techniques, aiming for a high complexity of the exercises, putting heavy emphasis on arms and legs. The fighters must be thoroughly trained in defending themselves against all manner of weaponry a criminal may possess, which are frequently knives, therefore the fighters must be able to expediently neutralize the criminal who attempts such an attack. A different instructor commands the exercises and drills in which most expertise and experience has been cultivated.



Once the physical training is completed, they start the tactical training. This is done in a special place that offers both the space needed for exercises involving



# FROM THE INSIDE FROM THE INSIDE



vehicles and a replica of a house to achieve specific CQB techniques.

The first operation is conducted as if the officers are acting on intel about a suspect in the house, but without any other details to go on; not knowing whether the perpetrator is or is not armed, or if he is under the influence of alcohol or other substances and what is his hiding position inside the house. For the training to be as close to the real situation encountered in the field, one officer will be armed with a knife and act out the role of aggressor.



Leaving their car and on approach to the house, the officers organize themselves in an intervention squad, the fighters taking cover behind a shield. „The team enters the house and combs, crawls, while taking the necessary security measures, until the suspect is found, immobilized, handcuffed, and given to the officers in charge of the missions,” said one of the policemen briefly describing the exercise. Field demonstrations transform what appears to be a simple mission into a fast and flawless series of actions which concentrates tremendous attention to details, thus showing that the fighters practice these scenarios on regular basis and that each fighter knows what to do and his role in the team. Silent hand signs often the sole means of communication, the whole house is checked, rooms are cleared and the offender who attempts to attack the police is rapidly immobilized and disarmed.



The second drills follows in full force, this time held outside, recreating an interception in traffic. With one officer to play the offender's role, it goes on the scenario of the one person in the car, but the same rules apply if



# FROM THE INSIDE FROM THE INSIDE

more people are involved. The suspect vehicle is blocked and the team approaches in formation, always paying maximum attention to the movements of the suspect, to ensure the safety of the fighters. The suspect is extracted from the car, restrained, handcuffed and searched.

In the third exercise, the scenario is the same, but the SAS team is joined by the K9 unit, a shepherd dog named Nun. The dogs are used in general when they are going after dangerous criminals, to prevent any attacks against the law enforcement unit members. No matter how aggressive the person is, they quench fast enough in front of a police trained dog, reducing the risks the fighters are exposed to.

## ***Constanta Special Action Service has the following attributions:***

- \* Executes, independently or not, interventions and time limited police action, in areas and environments with high crime rate or criminal potential to prevent and combat violence offenses;
- \* Participates in strengthening the security measures in communities with high criminality rates;
- \* Intervenes in areas and neighborhoods where serious crimes were committed (kidnappings, murders, armed attacks, escapes), completing the initial steps of the municipal police;
- \* Participates, alongside other police forces, in police raids and hold-ups.





# Eurasian Partnership

## Dive 14



Text & photo: Marcella Drăgan

***Eurasian Partnership Dive 14, a multinational exercise held at Constanta, gathered together over 80 divers from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the US and Ukraine to execute real diving missions in the maritime districts of Constanta.***







national armies belonging to future NATO members will learn to change their combat systems, from the mindset to the organizational and logistical part. Through this exercise, alongside with the US Navy, we show our partners our standard operational procedures. They will see the equipment and how to use it, and also our procedures, which are NATO standards, then they will go back to their country and will begin, in turn, to share these experiences with their co-nationals. Divers learn primarily to change the

Led by the Romanian military divers, the exercise had two distinct phases: the EOD being carried out on board of the military intervention diving ship „Venus” and the scuba on board of the intervention ship „Grigore Antipa”.

The purpose of the exercise, as explained by Captain Commander Adrian Ontica, chief of the EOD combat divers, „is to show the participating partners, nations partners for peace, as Romania was until 2004, the NATO procedures. The participating



mentality and way of thinking, learn about a NATO structure of divers and scuba combat units, equipment that we use, and all this is done through practice, so they can gain information that will be useful when they get back home, information about their equipment, training mode, standards that have to be changed, some of which have already begun the process of change.”

In the first part of the exercise, divers from the invited states, under the guidance and supervision of Romanian and





American divers, organized into mixed teams, could practice search procedures, discovery and neutralization of an explosive device, and underwater search, exploration, filming and photographing of EOD and other immersed structures. The divers began to search around the ship to uncover explosive, mark their locations and neutralize them using a disruptor.

The second part was a training exercise aimed to improve the skills needed for operating with underwater hydraulic tools, as explained by Captain Commander Cocea Laurentiu, chief of the great depth divers unit. „Each mixed team of divers descended to the depth of work that today was 25-30 meters, there is a flange that





has some parts screwed, that they have to unscrew so they become familiar with these tools. Then we will move to a second set of hydraulic tools, including pick hammer, grinder and underwater chainsaw."

From the American partners, Lcdr. Rob McGregor, responsible for organizing the exercise, stated, at the end of the Eurasian Partnership Dive, that "this exercise is important for the US Navy, to be able to work with our partners and allies, developing and sharing professional relationships, so we can understand how our partners do thing and how we do thing. Organizing such an exercise take a little bit of work, but at the end, when all comes together and all







share their experiences, my part becomes insignificant compared with the benefits that we get from working with our allies."

At the Eurasian Partnership Dive exercise, attended with a support role, „Lightning” 1 and 2 speedboats, and the participants were given access to

the Hyperbaric Laboratory Diving Center, the only structure in the region equipped with Diving Decompression chamber.





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