

TACTICA ^{#13} magazine



**Saber Guardian
2019**



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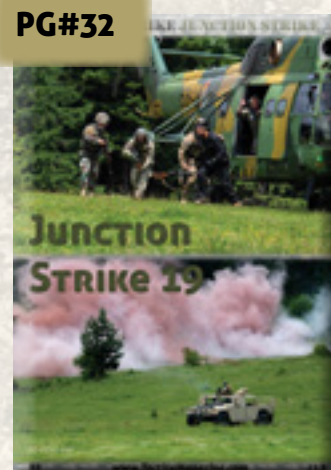
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Saber Guardian 2019



Saber Guardian 19 is a combination of exercises (marches, combat activities that include firing sessions with anti-air artillery, forcing the crossing of water streams, medical training, etc.) led by the United States Army Europe (USAREUR) and the Romanian Land Forces Headquarters.

The operational execution phase of the ROU SG19 exercises was conducted on the territories of Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary between 03-24 June. In the stages that were prior and those that follow this phase, there were





Nicolae Pascaru

different support events that took place in Romania: such as CIS exercises, deployment and dislocation, a tactical march of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and other training activities.

The main goal of SG19 was to emphasize cohesion, unity, and the solidarity of the partner and allied states with a view of defending themselves against any type of aggression, especially by a rapid mobilization and concentration of forces in a short time, anywhere in Europe. The focus was to develop communication and understanding between

the taking part NATO allies and partners, as well as improve the integration of multinational combat forces in preparation of a real-world crisis.

In order to optimize the international joint training activities, SG19 was connected to a series of other national and multinational exercises, and brought together almost 13,500 soldiers from 14 allied and partner states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, The Republic of Moldova, Holland, Poland,

Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and USA), out of which 7,600 will represent the Romanian Armed Forces.

Exercise Saber Guardian has been organized since 2013 and hosted rotationally by Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine. Starting in 2017, Saber Guardian became a biennale exercise. SG19 is included in the program of the USAREUR joint training exercises program, with a view of increasing interoperability at joint and multinational levels with the allied and partner states' armed forces.



RO MoD

The scenario

The geopolitical situation on which the scenario from the ROU SG19 is based is fictive, even if the training events could be similar to the possible military events in different operational environments, starting from those specific to hybrid and informational warfare and culminating with those specific to a real armed conflict.

"It has been a grand experience working with the other countries and experiencing their lifestyles and their culture," said (for 126th Public Affairs Operations Center), Spc. Jesse Garza, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier with the 519th Transportation Detachment, who volunteered to be a color guard for the Cincu Opening Ceremony. "It's an awakening to be invited to this country".



Nicolae Pascaru

"Saber Guardian is important because it allows us to improve our interoperability and develop relationships that are going to benefit us in the future," said (for 126th Public Affairs Operations Center) Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, U.S. Army Europe Deputy Commanding General for the Army National Guard. "We continue to get better each time we do these types of exercises, they're all about the interoperability between our allies and border nations".



Nicolae Pascaru

Opening ceremonies:

On Monday, June 3, the opening ceremonies of the Saber Guardian 2019 (SG19) Multinational Exercise were held at five locations in the country where the main activities were to take place: National Center for Joint Training "Getica" from Cincu, Training for Fighting Secondary Center "Smardan", 42 Communications and Information Support Center "Rasnov", Bordusani, Babadag.



Spc. Christopher Estrada

Nicolae Pascaru



PARTICIPANTS:

Albania; Bulgaria; France; Germany; Georgia; Italy; Republic of Moldova; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Spain; USA; Ukraine; UK.

- aprox. 13,400 pax (ROU: 7,600 pax; Allies: 5,800 pax).

- 3,555 equipments (ROU: 1,900; Allies: 1,565), tanks, APCs, guns, rocket systems, bridges, EUROFIHT jets, MIG jets, C-130, C27J, helicopters.

The connected exercises that were included in the ROU SG19 framework were: Wind Spring 19 (Cincu); Swift Response 19 (Boboc and Cincu); Scorpions Fury 19 (Bordusani area); Justice Sword 19 (Smardan); Marasesti 19 (Babadag); and Istria 19 (Capu Midia).

LOCATIONS:

Bucharest, Rasnov, Bordusani, Cincu, Buzau, Boboc, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Capu Midia, Smardan, Babadag, Slobozia

WIND SPRING

Participants:

ROU: 4th Infantry Division; 81st Mechanized Brigade; 8th LAROM Brigade; 2nd Mountain Brigade; Air Forces; Special Forces.

Allies: 1st Infantry Company (UKR) 2nd Cavalry Regiment USA

SCORPIONS FURY

Participants:

ROU: MNBDE-SE; 10th Engineer Brigade; River Task Group; SF Task Group.

Allies: Land Forces: 1st Inf. Division (USA); 141st Brigade

(USA); 1-16th Battalion (USA); 1st MP Platoon (BGR); Air Forces - 12th Airborne Brigade (USA), Navy Forces - Crossing Obstacles Company (DEU), Special Forces

SWIFT RESPONSE

Participants:

ROU: 2nd Airborne Brigade; Air Forces; Special Forces

Allies: 173rd Brigade (USA); DSK Battalion. (DEU/NLD)

JUSTICE SWORD

Participants:

ROU: 282nd Infantry Mechanized Brigade; Air

Forces; Special Forces

Allies: 1-16th Battalion (USA); 1st Infantry Platoon (MDA)

ISTRIA

Participants:

ROU: 1st SBAD Brigade; 53rd ADA Regiment; Air Forces; Navy Forces

Allies: 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

MARASESTI

Participants:

ROU: 9th Mechanized Brigade; Air Forces; Navy Forces; Special Forces



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Ioana Nistorescu

Wind Spring 19



Ioana Nistorescu

WIND SPRING WIND SPRING WIND SPRING

Romanian and American forces came together to perform a live-fire exercise in Cincu as part of Saber Guardian 19.

"This exercise promoted interoperability in coordinating and synchronizing the precision of the execution and the use of both Romanian and US forces in the exercise," said (to Sgt. Savannah Lang, 126th Public Affairs Operations Center) Col. Kelly D. McNeese, the 211th Regional Support Group Commander. "The coordinated activity that they



Ciprian Irimia



Ioana Nistorescu

and the structures of the 2 Mountain Troops Brigade Sarmizegetusa.

The allied forces were organized into a battle group consisting of soldiers from "Transylvanian Dragons" from the 811 Infantry Battalion and the 25th Ukrainian Airborne Brigade in the 1st echelon, respectively the soldiers of the 191 Infantry Battalion "Colonel Radu Golescu" in the second echelon.

Also taking part was the Combat Support Company of the 811 Infantry Battalion

took was pretty impressive."

The training included react to contact, close air support, medical evacuation, call for fire, direct fire, and counter-attack exercises.

The second week of the "Wind Spring 19" exercise brought increased training and dynamics to the 81st Mechanized Brigade soldiers, who were engaged in FTX (Field Training Exercise), along with the Ukrainian partner



MOC Cincu



Ioana Nistorescu



MOC Cincu



Ciprian Irimia



MOC Cincu

"Dej", which had the mission of assuring fire support for maneuvering subunits.

The enemy forces were played by the 2nd Mountain Troops Brigade Sarmizegetusa, through two companies.

For the Infantry Company of the 191st Infantry Battalion "Colonel Radu Golescu" the mission was to take the fight over from the Ukrainian company and execute the delay on successive alignments, mainly, the alignment and the blocking of the enemy's progress.

After the enemy resumed the offensive, the infantry structures from the fighting groups opened the fire and the artillery executed the stooping fire. 21 LANCER MIGs intervened to support the forces in contact with the enemy, destroying its artillery subunits. An impressive, visual and auditory effect was produced by LAROM weapon system, belonging to the 8 LAROM Brigade of Focșani, neutralizing the enemy's artillery and infantry. Following was the 152 mm caliber gun-howitzer, belonging to the 817 Artillery Battalion from Prundu-Bargaului, and then, as the enemy retreated approaching the positions of its own forces, it was consecutively engaged with all infantry weapon systems: caliber 120 and 82 mm mortars, 14.5 mm caliber machine guns mounted on TAB (Amphibious Armoured Personnel Carrier) and AG-9 grenade launcher. After this moment, a wounded serviceman was evacuated with an MLI MEDEVAC vehicle.

On the right flank, an IAR 330 PUMA SOCAT helicopter cell opened fire on the enemy with 57 mm unguided reactive missiles – PRND

An important role in this exercise was played by observer-controllers, officers and non-commissioned officers monitoring activities. If at STX (a tactical situation solving exercise) they stopped the sequence of the exercise and could ask questions to correct the actions, here OCs (Observers / Controllers) only record the situation, drawing from or introducing into the battle different elements.

The counterattack was conducted by an infantry company from the 191st Infantry Battalion from Arad, supported by a 4 AH-64 APACHE helicopter squadron from the USAREUR 12 Fighter Helicopter Brigade. The final stage of the exercise was the insertion of a light infantry company from CH-47 CHINOOK helicopter to execute a maneuver of enveloping and destroying the enemy.



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu

The Mountain Troops

300 personnel from the 2nd Mountain Troop Brigade, at battalion level structure, played the enemy part for the other major units and units taking part in the exercise according to the Wind Spring scenario. The 30th Mountain Troop Battalion, the 33th Mountain Troop Battalion, and other combat and support elements from the 2nd Mountain Troop Brigade carried out the training for solving a platoon-level tactical situation. They had the opportunity to check their combat techniques according to the specific operating standards.

The structure that formed the enemy, from the 2nd Mountain Troop Brigade Sarmizegetusa, was led by the 30th Mountain Troop Battalion "Dragoslavele", which had the most forces. The other units were part of the 33rd Mountain Troop Battalion Posada, 206th Artillery Battalion General Mihail Lăcătușu and 228th Anti-aircraft Defense Battalion "Piatra Craiului".

Ciprian Irimia



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



Medical Evacuation

The 30 service personnel from the 81st Mechanized Brigade 'General Grigore Balan' attending the Combat Life Saver Course, organized at the National Joint Training Center 'Getica' in Cincu, together with 20 militaries from the subordinated structures of the brigade practiced the embarkation/disembarkation and transfer of patients to a MEDEVAC configuration and equipment helicopter and to a Puma SOCAT IAR 330 Combat helicopter belonging to 71 Air Base General Emanoil Ionescu from Campia Turzii.



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu

The LOGISTICS

Specialists in the transport and storage of fuel from the 4th Logistics Base "Transilvania", jointly with the American partner, showed a presentation of the fuel storage facilities and the technique used in this sense.

The work was carried out under the command of Colonel Cristian Rus, Chief of Staff of 4th Logistics Center "Transilvania", with US partners under the command of Captain Sara Raxter, the commander of a fuel insurance and transport company.

On this occasion, Sergeant Kikarus Redding described

to the Romanian soldiers the route that the liquid fuel goes through, from the reception to the technical supply, explaining the facilities offered by the equipment.

The Romanian servicemen invited the US military in their own district, describing their storage facilities and the specific fuel handling procedures.

At the end of the activity, as a sign of appreciation for the beautiful collaboration between the two structures, Colonel Rus offered Captain Raxter the plaque of the 4th Logistics Base "Transilvania".



MOC Cincu



MOC Cincu

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SCORPION

FURRY



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SCORPION FURRY SCORPION FURRY

The last stage of the Scorpions Fury 19 exercise connected with the multinational exercise Saber Guardian 19 was held Bordusani. The forces taking part in the scenario agreed for the Day of Distinguished Visitors were from the South East Multinational Brigade, the 10th Genius Brigade



<http://rft.forter.ro/>



Sgt. Thomas Mort

"Lower Danube", 307 Marine Infantry Regiment of Naval Forces, and Romanian Air Force. The American partner was present with the resources from the 1st Infantry Division, 141 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1-16 Infantry Battalion, 209th Digital Liaison Detachment, 336 Military



Staff Sgt. True Thao



Marcella Dragan

The Wet Gap Crossing (WGX) involved a series of events including a sling load resupply, medical training, a base defense, and convoy live-fire exercises. The scenario consisted of securing the bank, forcing and securing the opposite bank, occupying the bridgehead, developing the forward offensively and

SCORPION FURRY SCORPION FURRY

continuing the offensive in the area of action. In this sequence have taken part with equipment and weapons all three categories of forces from the Romanian Armed Forces, together with those from the United States Ground Forces in Europe.

"While the wet gap crossing is being conducted with the Romanians and our tanks and Bradley's, we are conducting an air assault in conjunction with



Sgt. Thomas Mort



Sgt. Thomas Mort

linked up at an observation point and moved to establish a support by fire position with 240s and Javelins, then continued moving forward and cleared the enemy in the trenches in order to allow freedom of maneuver for the rest of the element.

The Romanian Naval Artillery and the 325th Field Artillery Battalion provided support by fire as Romanian Puma SOCAT helicopters gave close air support.

artillery fire, so that we can seize a support-by-fire position and allow the rest of the battalion to conduct a breach and continue the attack," said (for Sgt. Thomas Mort, 1st ABCT, 1st ID) Lt. Andrew Papathanasiou, a platoon leader with 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Reg.

Following the scenario of the air assault, once the infantrymen got off the helicopter, they set up security and got into the wedge to push forward to the positions to continue the mission. They



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performed strafing runs along the riverside with bigger gunships adding extra intimidation.

The event ended with all opposing forces neutralized and a successful wet gap crossing by friendly forces.

"This was a peak of joint military training conducted at the last period of exercise Saber Guardian," added Lt. Col. Dan Crisan, Public Affairs Officer for all Romanian Land Forces. "A huge effort of our soldiers showed all these capabilities."

Meanwhile, allied force Chinooks sling loaded and delivered the final piece of the bridge, allowing ground forces to cross. A follow-on convoy of American and allied military vehicles crossed the floating bridge while air force MiGs, F16s, Apaches, and Blackhawks soared through the sky offering support.

Additionally, Romanian infantry marines patrolled the Danube on zodiac inflatable boats, countering simulated opposing force attacks. They



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Spc. Samantha Hall



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SCORPION FURRY SCORPION FURRY

The naval forces

About 1000 troops from 12 structures of the Romanian Military Navy took part in the Saber Guardian 19 multinational exercise. In order to fulfill the commitments regarding the increase of the interoperability between the Romanian military mariners and the NATO partners, the Naval Operational Component managed and coordinated the integration of the Naval Forces structures in the joint exercise scenario, conducted by a multinational coalition.

The most spectacular sequence attended by the Romanian Naval Forces soldiers were the WGX, were six military river ships, a detachment of Marine infantry and a battalion detachment harmonized their efforts to reject the attack of a conventional enemy who tried to force the passage of the Danube. By sea, five military ships and a high-speed divers' ship ensured the safety of the maritime districts near the Romanian seaside, and in the Babadag area, and the Marine infantry carried out the combat-specific actions of the lagoon, according to the scenario of a defensive operation.

The cybersecurity of communications and the interconnection of mission network modules was provided by three specialized structures of the Naval Forces, namely the 243 Radioelectronics and Observation Brigade, the 110 Communications and Informatics Center and the Center for Communications Technology and Cybernetics, and the Naval Logistics Base "Pontica" and the Naval Force Support Battalion provided logistic support to the 1,000 sailors taking part in the Saber Guardian 19. In addition, a team from the Naval Force Training, Simulation, and Assessment Center assessed for certification, the crews of two River Armed Forces and a group of River Military Divers, which will be part of the forces made available to NATO and the EU in 2020.



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Marasesti 19



Gheorghe Gabără

The 9th Mechanized Brigade "Mărășești" completed the second phase of the "Marășești 19" exercise held in the Secondary Training Center from Babadag with a live-fire session, an opportunity to test the instruction level achieved so far. One of the most looked after training were the joint ones with structures from 307 Marine Infantry Regiment,

52 Special Forces Battalion, and from 57 Air Base Mihail Kogalniceanu.

The rangers from the 9th Mechanized Brigade together with the operators from 52 Special Forces executed the helicopter insertion training, working on fast-rope and rappel technics, with the support from the pilots of 57



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Alex Cornell du Houx



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Air Base Mihail Kogalniceanu.

On the same time, the soldiers from the 345th Artillery Battalion Tomis marked the end of the instruction period with the execution of an LFX Tactical Exercise with the 100 mm antitank cannon in the Babadag polygon. The platoon is made up of four tanks, and in the back is the tanker of the company commander, says Sergeant First Class platoon chief Major Emil Munteanu.

There have been five tanks in the field, a platoon of 16 soldiers, plus the company's command - with four other men. "To begin with, we made a correction shot. We fired twice to make the corrections and transmit the data to the rest of the subordinate tanks. Then we fired in a tactical plan, a salvage, and then fire at will, each in its targets, in the given sector." The NCO is 31 years old. He has been working in the battalion, in the same team, for over 10 years, and is glad that among his colleagues is a girl, Corporal 2nd Grade Andreea Gheorghian. "We are four soldiers in a team, she said, and we have the same crew for ten years. We understand well, I have nothing to reproach my colleagues. Tanks are tough, indeed, but very beautiful, if you like what you do. And I like it."

Training after was the 341st Infantry Battalion of Constanta, the White Sharks, which trained with the TAB mounted weapons and the 82 mm mortar. "We perform the assessment at the end of the instruction phase - in my

case at the level of an infantry company - and we are firing using real ammunition. About 120 soldiers and 25 armored vehicles weapons' systems take part in the battalion. We also integrated both a tank platoon from 9 Mechanized Brigade Marasesti and a Marine Infantry Platoon, thus giving a joint character the exercise, even if we are at a company level," said the commander of the 341st Infantry Battalion, Lieutenant- Colonel Nicolae Ciprian Balica.

After were the tankers from the 912th Tank Battalion Scythia Minor preparing for evaluation with a tactical life fire exercise. "This activity constituted the platoon assessment at the end of the training phase. In the scenario, they took up a point of combat support and block the main direction of an infantry company that attacked us, explains Lieutenant Colonel Viorel

According to the scenario, the enemy infiltrated Lake Razim. The Romanian militaries executed a retaliation, a counterattack to reject or capture the penetrating enemy and restore the defense on the national border.

«The temperature increases with each day. In the armored technique, with complete combat equipment, we feel at 40-45 degrees. So I'm proud that people have managed to overcome the deprivation of accommodation, high temperatures, and mosquitoes. They've proved they can keep their heads in the game, as we say," the commander added.



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Gheorghe Gabăra



Gheorghe Gabăra

Justice Sword



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The Justice Sword is a multinational exercise that provides the servicemen in the taking part countries with the opportunity to train together as a single unit based on a multitude of scenarios built to support Atlantic Resolve.

Atlantic Resolve is led by US Army Europe and is a series of multinational exercises in Europe designed to improve interoperability, strengthen ties between allies, contribute to regional stability, and show the United States' attachment to NATO.

Justice Sword 19 took place at the Secondary Joint Training Center in Smardan where Romanian, American and Moldovan servicemen met and cooperated.

The soldiers from the 288 Air Defence Battalion "Milcov" carried out a first training



Alex Cornell du Houx



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Alex Cornell du Houx



session that focused on the movement of equipment in the training area, entry into the formation, search and discovery of aerial targets and verification of the communication system.

In the first part of the Justice Sword 2019 multinational exercise, our allies from the United States 1-16th Infantry Battalion have carried out many maneuvers and real fire training.

Along with the American infantrymen were the Italian Air Force Eurofighter Typhoons, deployed from Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase. Then came the Moldovan soldiers who trained alongside the members of the 280 Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

Thus, infantry companies supported by the scouts, anti-aircraft and PsyOps structures acted vigorously. The role of the enemy was played in the exercise scenario by the 528 ISR Regiment Scouts who, through their actions, ensured the realism of the tactical field.

Careful planning, synchronization, and execution of the instruction are critical to any military structure. For the soldiers from the 285 Artillery Battalion, all of this is important because of the complexity of observing, coordinating, and executing fire to support the maneuver of combined weapons units. Next to them were the 284 Tanks Battalion that increased the complexity of the instruction by adding new tactical situations. Within the tanks units have been introduced air-

JUSTICE SWORD JUSTICE SWORD

defense and medical elements, but also technical support, and evacuation of damaged equipment.

The post-action analysis of the exercise showed that the training objectives were achieved, and the tank structures being prepared for the next stage of training.

In another part of the firing range, the servicemen from the 52 Mix Artillery Regiment Alexander Alexandru Tell prepared for another stage of the exercise. Equipped with target acquire systems, 152 mm howitzers, and reactive missile launchers, they trained to recognize and occupy firing positions, install combat elements, and check the control system. The Regiment provided fire support for 282 Mechanized Infantry Brigade alongside the 285 Artillery Battalion.

Also taking part in the training were F-16 aircraft from the 86 Air Base, IAR-99 Hawk, and IAR-330 SOCAT Helicopters from the 95 Air Base. This joint training is an opportunity for infantry and aviators to train together and combine the two dimensions, terrestrial and aerial, to bring realism to the missions performed within the exercise scenario.

"We have carried out the whole range of exercises to train brigade and battalion commands. At the moment, we are in the STX phase of the exercise, and in the next few days, we will continue the planned drills with combat structures within the 282nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade,



Eduard Borhan



Marcella Dragan



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Eduard Borhan



said the deputy commander of the 282nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, Colonel Cornel Scurt. "I appreciate that these activities are a good opportunity to meet our planned goals this year, to see where we are and where we have to correct, to change. Also, the multinational participation of US and Moldovan militaries lead us to measure the level of interoperability. I assure you that until this moment the Romanian military has shown that they can work shoulder to shoulder with any armies of the world, partner or ally, Colonel Short said.



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Eduard Borhan



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RO-MOND-SIRP



JUNCTION STRIKE 19



RO-MOND-SIRP

JUNCTION STRIKE JUNCTION STRIKE

Junction Strike 19 (JUST 19), the special forces' exercise, took place between 3-22 June and ensured the organizational conditions for executing realistic training on a fictional scenario associated with the hybrid war by the taking part special forces' tactical structures, in a multinational and interdepartmental format, and for the evaluation / recertification of a capability target made available to NATO. JUST 19 was carried out in



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two stages: in the first stage, training activities were carried out in the virtual environment, in simulation exercises; in the second stage, tactical training of the special forces in the three operational environments - land, air and sea.

The SOF operators taking part on JUST 19 showcased their ability during the Distinguished Visitors' Day on Tuesday, June 18, at the firing range in Sovaja, Vrancea County, where they executed a



JUNCTION STRIKE JUNCTION STRIKE

sequence from a tactical crisis response exercise planned after a fictitious scenario.

Over 450 soldiers performed specific actions in 12 locations throughout Romania (barracks, polygons, lands, training camps and air bases in the counties of Bacău, Brasov, Buzău, Cluj, Constanta, Galati, Ialomita, Mures, Sibiu, Suceava, Tulcea, and Bucharest). Along with the Romanian operators trained and worked on improving the coordination actions of their own troops approximately 120 foreign soldiers from allied or partner countries - Georgia, United Kingdom, Moldova, Portugal, United States of America. JUST 19 was the first exercise to bring together militaries from these countries and enabling special forces operators to verify operational procedures for action and to increase the level of interoperability.



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Istria 19



"Istria 19" Tactical Exercise was a live-fire field training based on a fictitious scenario designed to train and test ground-based air defense structures within the 1st Brigade Surface-to-air Missile "Nicolae Dăscălescu". The exercise aims to improve the ability to plan and conduct combat activities, as well as training and evaluating combat teams in conditions close to those of the modern battlefield, day and night.

During the exercise Hawk, SA-6 and SA-8 systems were fired. The absolute novelty was the presence in the exercise of structures belonging to the 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command (C 10 / AAMDC / USAREUR) that carried out surface-to-air missile launches with Patriot and Avenger systems. These were the first Patriot missiles to be launched over continental Europe.

Lieutenant Colonel Valeriu Calin of the National Defense Training Center said that more than 600 Romanian and American soldiers with 164 mobile platforms (rocket launchers, transport equipment, generating sets, radars) were firing at real targets in the seaports of the Capu Midia area.

Surface-to-air missile systems are vital to Romania's defense and the defense of the Black Sea region, said (for stripes.com) Col. David Shank, the commander of the 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command. Working with



Laurentiu Turoi



Sgt. Savannah Lang



Bogdan Aaron Pantilimon



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Laurentiu Turoi



Laurentiu Turoi



Laurentiu Turoi



Laurentiu Turoi



older Soviet-era missile launchers presented some technical difficulties during the exercise, which was intended to help the two allies synchronize their missile tracking, targeting and firing capabilities, he noted. "But we have the right soldiers with the right skills to integrate these systems and mitigate these challenges, so in the event that we do have to fight together, we're prepared to do just that," added Shank.

Firing the missiles "could send a message across the Black Sea that we will soon have these capabilities," said Maj. Gen. Viorel Pana, the chief of staff for the Romanian air force. "But the way these missiles will be deployed won't necessarily be used (in the Black Sea)." In the event of an attack on Romania, the Patriots will increase the country's ability to defend itself until the U.S. or other NATO allies can come to its aid, Pana said.

The exercise also allowed the U.S. to showcase the Patriots — made by U.S. defense contractor Raytheon — to Romania, which is in the process of acquiring the system and plans to field it next year.



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Richard Wooten

SWIFT Response

Exercise Swift Response 19 kicked off with paratroopers assigned to 1st Battalion (Airborne) 143rd Infantry Regiment jumping into Boboc Air Base, Romania alongside NATO allies. After securing equipment, the joint force began clearing the area and setting up defensive fighting positions and preparing for combat operations.

Exercise Swift Response 19 is an annual U.S. Army Europe led multinational airborne exercise being conducted in Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania with participating armed forces from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Swift Response provides a vital joint training opportunity that allows command and control of complex operations from dispersed locations while ensuring that participating forces work together seamlessly to bring the full weight of the joint and combined team to bear - wherever and whenever needed - to defend against regional aggression.



Richard Wooten



Spc. Ryan Lucas



Richard Wooten

SWIFT RESPONSE SWIFT RESPONSE



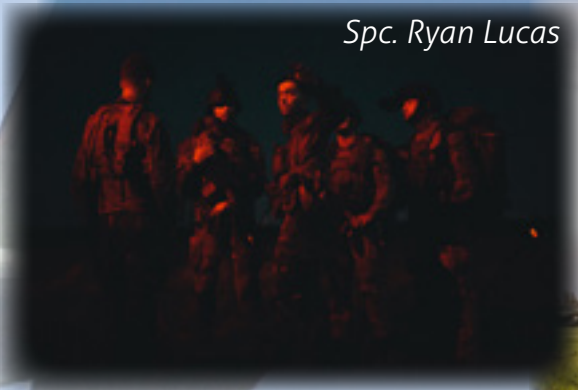
Richard Wooten

intelligence officer with the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne).

The active part of the Swift Response 19 exercise took place between 15th and 18th June at the "Getica" National Training Center.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment's Defense Operation (2d CR) was supported by the 12th CAB (Brigade 12 Battleship

Spc. Ryan Lucas



Spc. Ryan Lucas



Spc. Ryan Lucas

Richard Wooten

To test out the Army's ability to respond to a crisis in the Balkans, Swift Response created a scenario where NATO forces had to react to a "mixed-threat" enemy, armed with the small arms of a militia unit but also with larger vehicles and anti-aircraft guns of a regular military force, said U.S. Army Capt. Michael Lapadot, an



Spc. Ryan Lucas



SWIFT RESPONSE SWIFT RESPONSE

Helicopters), which secured a parachute equipment supply on June 17th. Later on the night of 17 to 18 June, an air assault took place, attended also by soldiers from the DSK (Division Schnelle Kräfte) Parachute Battalion, Germany and the Netherlands. The airstrike aimed at conquering and securing an aerodrome and attacking an isolated position.

The main force in the exercise was the US 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2d CR), which had to delay and block the enemy on a line of defense, according to the scenario.

The 2 Mountain Brigade Sarmizegetusa and the servicemen of the OPFOR (Cincu) Battalion, the structures that played the enemy in the exercise, set all the training conditions for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment of the United States (2d CR) by performing an offensive operation.

Logistic support for the American partner was provided by the 21st US Logistics Support Command (21st TSC).

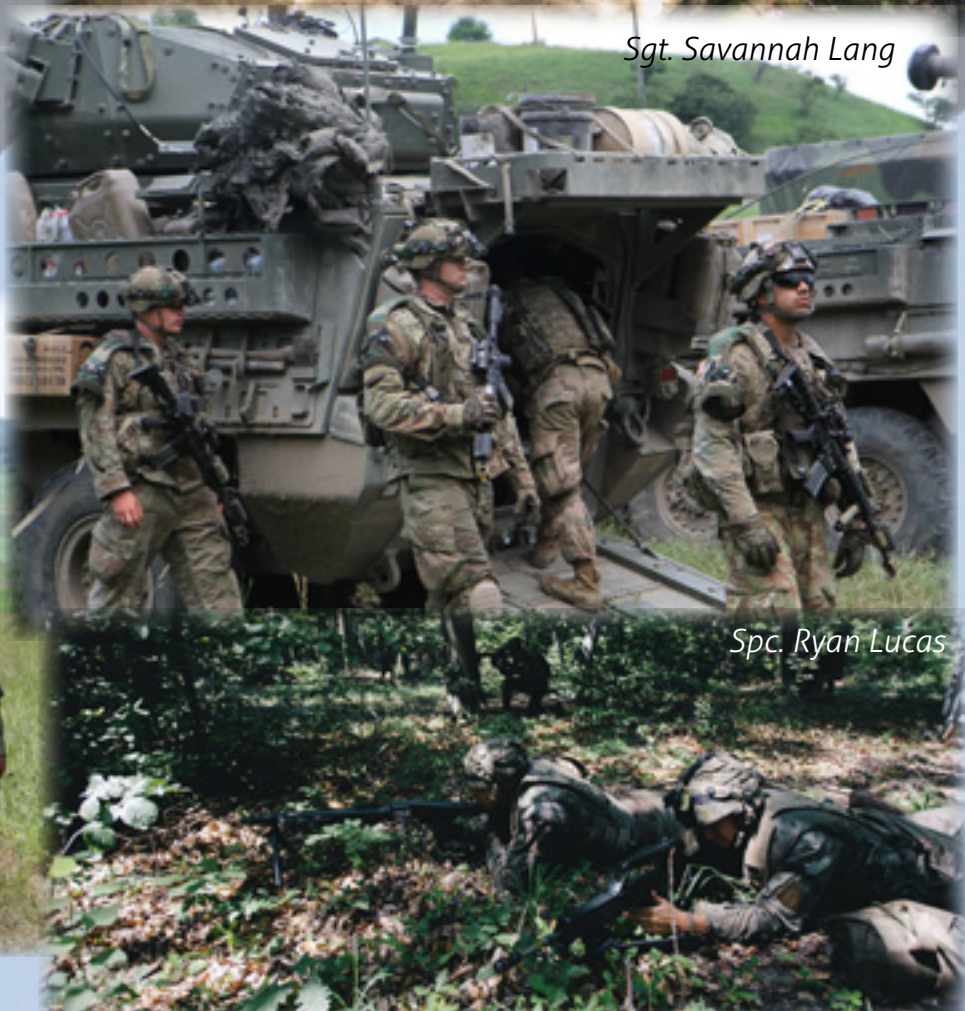


Sgt. Savannah Lang



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Spc. Ryan Lucas



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Spc. Ryan Lucas

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Tomis



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Seven military ships and a naval Puma helicopter operated live-fire missions in the Black Sea coastal districts between Capu Midia and Mangalia, during the tactical training Tomis 19, connected to Saber Guardian 19.



According to the scenario, the sailors executed live firing sessions using the on-board artillery systems and conducted missions to monitor and prohibit navigation during the land-air rocket launches at the Capu Midia firing range.

The naval maritime group taking part in the 'Tomis

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19' exercise consists of a frigate, two corvettes, two minesweepers, a missile-carrying vessel, and a sea-going tug. The prohibited districts for navigation were transmitted through navigational advice and the warning of the ships not respecting the navigation ban in the districts in which fire missions were being carried out is by radiotelephone on an international channel in English and Russian.

Following the illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation, the exercises organized by the North Atlantic Alliance states have diversified, focusing on a common and multinational character, in order to strengthen military skills for an adequate response, as well as to discourage illegal trafficking in goods or people. The Romanian Navy contributes to NATO's effort to ensure security on the eastern flank through the interconnection of the planned exercises in the training plans of the Alliance that take place in this area as well as the integration of Romanian military ships into NATO naval groups operating in the Black Sea.

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