



#04

TACTICA

magazine

ALPINIADA

The Mountains Troops'
Winter Games

**Awarding
the Battle
Flag to BSIJ**

**ManHunt with
Joel Lambert**

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Homeland Security, Cyber Security, Safety & Security and Aerospace

EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

Extraordinary people

I made the magazine out of passion, as a personal project, a challenge. With each new issue, I discover another reason to continue publishing *Tactica Magazine*. Making the materials for this issue, I found a new reason and, most likely, an "official" answer that I will give whenever I am asked why I made this magazine: to meet extraordinary people.

The first ones I met were the mountain troops who participated in the Alpiniada, and all the soldiers who were involved in its development. The camaraderie, the spirit of dedication and sacrifice for the team's success, regardless of the final place in the standings, the pride of representing unity, the severity with which they analyzed their evolution and stubbornness to work and perform better in future editions of the competition. One of the people who remained in my mind and who created one of the happiest but emotionally charged moments at the end of the patrol test was the soldier from Vatra Dornei Battalion who was called to participate in the test replacing a sick colleague. Corporal Gavril Moraru, known as a Jack of all trades in the unit and always ready to jump to the aid of his colleagues, after crossing the finish line and spilling his guts on the soldiers much younger because they put him on skis and made him go through the mountains for about 17 km, after not having skiing for two years, he apologized to his teammates for slowing them down.

Another soldier, this time from other lands, is the second extraordinary man I had the pleasure and honor to meet by making this magazine issue. Joel Lambert, the host of the latest Discovery Channel show, *Manhunt*, and a former Navy Seal soldier for ten years, came to Bucharest to participate in a local hunt for the show's launch event in Romania. Friendly and open, he answered all the journalists' questions, even the strangest ones, as much as his time and the secret of his former profession allowed. Although a short meeting, it was an impressive one, and for a journalist passionate about "military", maybe unique. And, as the Romanian boys who followed him through Bucharest said (in a game where they received directions, via the internet from those who saw the entire action from home), we hunted and we didn't manage to catch a former Navy Seal. A unique opportunity.

Like all the people I meet and work with to make each issue of the magazine and make my job much more enjoyable and easier.

Marcella Dragan



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CONTENT

PG#10 ALPINIADA, The Mountains Troops' Winter Games



PG#22 Manhunt with Joel Lambert



PG#06 Special Operations Forces Day



PG#20 Awarding the Battle Flag to BSIJ



PG#28 The Gendarmes from Braila helping those in need



PG#31 Romanian helping Ukrainian citizens



PG#32 Black scorpions return in Zabul province, Afghanistan



PG#34 The American transit point from MK Air Base is fully operational



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Special Operations Forces Day



Text: Capitan Dorel DANCIU
Revista Fortelor Terestre
Photo: Fortele Terestre Romane

1 March marked Special Forces Day. The choice of this day was not made at random, it is related to the issuance of the order to establish a unit for special operations, also known as „Eagles” - the basic action component of the forces that perform such operations.

According to the law, the unit is a military structure specially trained and equipped for the execution of special investigation missions, counterterrorism actions, military assistance for advising and training other armies, stability actions, humanitarian aid and peace support.

Maturity

The appearance of the „Eagles” in the organizational chart of the Romanian Army was an adequate and effective response to the

spectrum of threats to national defense, an adaptation to the current security environment and, last but not least, the conscious assumption of duties resulting from NATO membership. Started in March 2003, the process of setting up the unit took place over a longer period of time, with the main objective of operationalizing small structures such as dimensions, compact, flexible, mobile, capable of rapid,

discreet and timely intervention in all situations. This process had several components: the selection of personnel, the creation of the logistical capacities necessary for an optimal operation, the endowment with state-of-the-art equipment and armament, as well as the initiation of the training process specific to special operations. All these components have been treated with care, involvement, and professionalism.



Thus, at this time of the evolution of the military structure, the unit is in an advanced stage of operationalization and certification.

Quality before quantity

A man with his own traits is the most important element that the selection process pursues. The principle that permanently underpinned the recruitment process was quality over quantity and the fact that SOF are not a „mass product.” As in all modern armies, access to special forces structures is a major desideratum for every soldier, reaching a peak of career development and a competition focused on exceeding their own limits. The psychomoral profile of the Special Operations Forces fighter is that of the „complete military”, who shows courage, intelligence, perseverance, tenacity, loyalty and moral verticality in environmental conditions that require resistance to extreme physical and mental effort and in which the values human beings are often the only decision-makers.

The selection of personnel for inclusion in special operations structures was based on the completion of the initial selection and qualification course, focused on identifying and stimulating



native and acquired skills, behavioral attributes considered vital for microstructures acting independently in hostile environments, in situations of extreme risk. Statistically, only 8 percent of candidates manage to successfully complete the entire selection process.

Execution of real missions - the end point of the preparation process

The component elements of the Special Operations Forces base their power on surprise, speed, ingenuity, flexibility, mobility, cultural understanding and language competence, adapted to the areas of action. The whole process of training special forces fighters is focused on these coordinates. The

training of the military and special operations subunits is organized in training phases and focuses on qualification and improvement in the specialties: parachuting, diving, mountaineering, genius (mining-demining and destruction), military communications, military information, operations, paramedics and linguistic experts. These specialties acquire real action valences only after achieving the cohesion of the functional microstructures, the final stage of a complex training process.

The soldiers of the unit fully benefited from the military experience from similar structures belonging to other armies with a tradition in the field, during joint training activities, courses abroad, exercises and applications with international participation. All this was reflected in exemplary conduct during specific missions in the Afghanistan area of operations.

The level of training, the specific way of planning and execution of missions by the Special Operations Forces soldiers, recommends this category of forces as the ideal option for solving borderline situations in a fast, discreet, and low-consumption of human and material resources.



Corporal Ionuț Adrian Vaduva „Hero of the Day” from Afghanistan, received the Emblem of Honor of the Romanian Army, with war insignia



The Minister of National Defense, Mircea Dușa, conferred the Emblem of Honor of the Romanian Army, with a war insignia, to Corporal Vaduva Ionuț Adrian from the Red Scorpions detachment, within the Romanian company deployed at Kandahar Airport. While on a patrol mission on Saturday, 22 February, in the area adjacent to Kandahar airport, Corporal Vaduva identified a suspicious object that was later confirmed as a state-of-the-art D.E.I. (Improvised Explosive Device), taking the necessary measures to neutralize it. For his actions, the Romanian soldier was awarded the title of „HERO OF THE DAY” by the leadership of the Southern Regional Command of ISAF (ISAF Regional Command - South)

Corporal Ionuț Adrian Vaduva is 29 years old, unmarried and has been a professional soldier since 2005. On 1 December, 2013, he began his fourth mission in Afghanistan. The soldier was also decorated, in 2009, by the President of Romania with the medal „Manhood and Faith” - Class III, following the actions taken in Afghanistan to repel an insurgent attack and provide first aid to colleagues injured in the same attack. About Corporal Ionuț Adrian Vaduva, Lieutenant George Tanase sent the following from Afghanistan:

„In 2009 he received from the President of Romania the medal” Manhood and Faith „Class III. I was in F.O.B. Varner when the insurgents launched a complex 3-part attack. They fired

continuously at us for almost an hour with infantry weapons and grenade launchers. 2 shots by AG-7 hit directly in one of the guard towers. Neither of the 2 colleagues in the tower answered anymore so I didn't think too much and went up to them. One was unconscious and the other seriously injured. The enemy fire had not yet ceased, so I gave them first aid on the spot and continued to fire on the insurgents to repel the attack. We were lucky, everything ended well and the wounded were evacuated safely.

I caught him in the morning, right after he returned from a night mission. He had the time to tell me about delicate moments and extreme situations from the almost 2 years spent in Afghanistan until the next patrol. In 2009 I was hired by the research company. Then the most attacked were the bases, but even in patrols, it was not easy. Right before a very important American convoy passed, I discovered a D.E.I. of 300 kilograms. I was congratulated and received a diploma of appreciation from them.

But the hardest mission was in 2011. In the first weeks, my platoon commander's car initiated a D.E.I., we were caught in many ambushes, we intervened to help colleagues who were under open fire.

He doesn't talk much about his career so far. He did his military service for 1 year, after which he signed the professional contract. He thought at one point about joining the special forces, but now he thinks the time for that is over. I want more from the army. As an enrolled soldier, I did almost everything I could do, I really want to become a non-commissioned officer.”

„Martisoare” for ladies from the Romanian Police

As every year, on 1 March, the Bucharest traffic police, and not only, stop the ladies in traffic to give them a „martisoar”. And, although it is no longer a novelty, most drivers conscientiously prepare documents for control. However, the worry on their faces is quickly changed with a smile, as soon as the policemen, very serious, tell them that they stopped them in order to fine them with a martisor and a flower.

The action in the Capital was attended by police officers from the Institute for Crime Research and Prevention, together with those from the Public Order Directorate, Road Directorate and Transport Directorate and representatives of the „Necuvinte” Association, who distributed leaflets with information on domestic violence prevention, identification potential aggressors, calling the emergency number 112 and other useful information.

Also in the country, police officers from the Institute for Crime Research and Prevention will carry out public activities, in which they will offer leaflets, flyers, recommendations on self-protection measures that ladies and gentlemen can take to avoid falling victim to criminals or domestic violence. They will also receive flowers, „martisoare” and other promotional materials.

At the same time, through the Bucharest Regional Transport Police Section, the Transport Police offered flowers and „martisoare” to the ladies and young ladies, within an action organized in Gara de Nord and in the Herni Coanda - Otopeni International Airport.



ALPINIADA

The Mountains Troops' Winter Games

The winter Alpiada, the applicative-military sports competition of mountain troops, started on the morning of 4 February with the opening ceremony, organized in the barracks of the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragos Voda” from Vatra Dornei.

text & photo: Marcella Dragan

In his opening remarks, the chairman of the organizing committee, Colonel Florin Vica Obrintescu, stressed that the Alpiada is a stage of evaluation and validation of individual and collective training of mountain troops, a traditional activity specific only to mountain troops and unique within the Land Forces.

At the end of the ceremony, the soldiers from the 8 participating units – 2nd Mountain Troops Brigade „Sarmizegetusa”, 21st Mountain Troops Battalion „General Leonard Mociulschi”, 30th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragoslavele”, 33rd Mountain Troops Battalion „Posada”, Brigade 61 Mountain Troops „General Virgil Badulescu”, 17th Battalion Mountain Troops „Dragos Voda”, 22nd Mountain Troops Battalion „Ciresoaia”, 24th Mountain Troops Battalion „General Gheorghe Avramescu” - went to the Floreni range for the first test of competition, the relay.



Relay

We went alongside the soldiers and the atmosphere in the trucks that took us to the training ground was quite „frozen” because of the -12 degrees with which the day began, but also because of the

emotions of the beginning of the competition. But the temperature did not deter the soldiers, on the contrary, it became subject of jokes, and with the entrance on the road leading to the training ground, the whole truck came to life.

Lieutenant-Colonel Florian Hangan-Ianoşiu, senior instructor and head of department at the Training Base for Mountain Troops in Predeal, and the technical director of the competition, said a few words about this test: „There is only one heavier section, where



the military they must overcome an obstacle, but otherwise there aren't insurmountable parts. The 4 × 6 km relay team comprises four competitors, one of whom must be an officer assigned to run in the first shift. So, they run in four shifts, each shift running 6 km. Each partner in the relay team of a group runs on skis three laps of 2 km. The first two rounds are followed by firing sessions, the first firing with five cartridges, shot by shot, from the lying position on a target-chest with circles with a diameter of 20 cm, arranged at a distance of 50 m, and the second firing, five cartridges, shot after shot, standing from position, on a single target-chest, arranged at the same distance. Every shot that doesn't hit its target means a minute penalty from the total time scored by a relay team. „

In this test the first three places were occupied by the 21st Mountain Troops Battalion „General Leonard Mociulschi“ from Predeal, the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragos Voda“ from Vatra Dornei and the 24th Mountain Troops Battalion „General Gheorghe Avramescu“ from Miercurea Ciuc.

Military triathlon

The second test of the Winter Alpiniada took place on the newest ski slope in Vatra Dornei, the Veverita Slope. Today, the military performed the military triathlon, in which the mountain troops had to go through three trials, a huge slalom - in two stages, downhill and cross-country skiing. Lieutenant-Colonel Floian Hangan-Ianoșiu provides details about the event: „for triathlon, the participating teams consist of three soldiers; the competition has a huge slalom event, with two rounds, one downhill, in one run, and, the third event, cross-country skiing.



At the end of them is a general ranking. After summing up the scores obtained in case of a tie, the team with the best ranking in the cross-country skiing race has priority. The conditions for skiing are excellent. The organizers from Vatra Dornei were up to the task. „

The winners for each event were: huge slalom - Corporal Alin Petric from the 21st Mountain Troops Battalion „General Leonard Mociulschi“ from Predeal, Corporal Ciprian Marian

Patrol

On the last and hardest day of the Winter Alpiniada, the most important, but also the most difficult test took place, in which the entire training of the mountain troops was used. Because it is about it, the patrol test brought to the start a group of 7 soldiers who had to cover on skis a route that started from the Floreni range and ends in Runc Hill from Vatra Dornei and



to perform certain exercises, detailed by Lieutenant-Colonel Florian Hangan-Ianoșiu. „Each group consisted of 7 soldiers, as follows: an officer, patrol commander, three cadres and three professional ranks. The route is more than 16 km and a half. We made it according to the existing snow sections in the area in order to have as long a trip as possible on skis. The route has a total level difference of over 2000 m. It starts from the Floreni Polygon, runs in the northern part of Vatra Dornei and reaches the place called La Ranca. The military is equipped in the training outfit and carries a fully equipped backpack, weighing 15 kg, in addition to the weapons provided.



from the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragos Voda“, and Corporal Florin Jitaru from the 21st Battalion; descent - Major-General Mihai Vranceanu from the 22nd Ciresoia Mountain Troops Battalion, Corporal Ciprian Marian and Corporal Florin Jitaru; - cross-country skiing (on a route of 8 km from the base of the chairlift from Dealul Negru to Veverita) - Corporal Alin Petric and Corporal Ciprian Marian.





During the patrol, a fire session is executed from the lying position, with five cartridges for each soldier, fire shot by shot, with a 7.62 mm machine gun or 5.45 mm automatic rifle, as appropriate, in a target at a distance of 100 m. Another stage of the patrol is the offensive grenade launching session, each soldier having to throw three grenades from the standing position on skis, in a target represented by a circle with a radius of 3 m, at a distance of 25 m from the throwing alignment.



A third important moment of the patrol is the passage of the military through a portion of contaminated land, 200 m long, with the gas mask on the face, in the allotted time of three minutes".

More important than the time in this test was the best possible performance of each stage, the penalties in minutes for each bullet or missed grenade establishing the final ranking, the difference being made at 15 seconds, in a test that was completed in over 2 and a half hours.

At this test the first place was occupied by the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragos Voda“, with a time of 2 hours, 37 minutes, 36 seconds, the second place, only





15 seconds away, was occupied by the 24th Mountain Troops Battalion „General Gheorghe Avramescu” from Miercurea Ciuc, with a time of 2 hours, 37 minutes, 51 seconds, and the third place went to the 21st Mountain Troops Battalion „General Leonard Mociulschi” from Predeal, with a time of 2 hours, 54 minutes, 57 seconds.

The final ranking of the Alpiniada was calculated after the three days of competition. The first place went to the 21st Mountain Troops Battalion „General Leonard Mociulschi” from Predeal, the second place went to the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragos Voda” and the third place to the 24th Mountain Troops Battalion „General Gheorghe Avramescu” from Miercurea



route on a single ski, the other breaking in a snow-free part, using a regulatory provision of the competition that allowed him to slide on a ski. Solidarity, sacrifice and team spirit were also seen in the case of the soldiers from the Vatra Dornei Battalion when one of them took and carried a colleague’s backpack.

Congratulations to all mountain troops and good luck in the future!



Day 11 - the day that should not have existed

Text: Benedict SIRBU - Cluj-Napoca Institute of Terrorism Studies and Research

The material is dedicated to 11 March - European Day for the Victims of Terrorism - as a sign of respect and solidarity with the victims of terrorist attacks in Europe

„No one kills what is beautiful, elegant and powerful. Nobody kills value ... I was wrong. In a hallucinatory and chaotic world, with immeasurable architectural, technological and civilizational developments, but also with abject manure, beauty, grandeur and elegance sometimes become extremely vulnerable”.

Gl. Bg. (r) Dr. Gheorghe VADUVA

Volgograd, London, Belfast, Madrid, Istanbul, Beslan, Moscow, Athens, New York ... the list goes on. These are cities where violence, terror and panic have gone far beyond what human beings can bear. The considerable number of victims and the significant material damage were the devastating consequences of tragedies that were difficult to anticipate and, almost impossible, to avoid.

The European Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, adopted in Warsaw on 16 June 2005, obliges signatory states to take all necessary measures to protect and support victims of terrorism committed in their territory, which may include, subject to national law, financial assistance and compensation for victims of terrorism and their close relatives. The state can also respond to the specific needs of victims of terrorism both legally and psycho-socially.

Beyond the reparative nature,

it remains clear that no compensation will ever be enough to lessen the traumatic experiences or cover the material and moral damage of the victims, families and friends who lost their loved ones during the tragic events.

In the mentioned metropolises, not only civility was attacked, but the very principles of freedom and protection, as part of a credible and democratic state system. Moreover, the entire international community, and especially the European community, has witnessed absolute defiance of their own identities.

International terrorism, an extremely complex social phenomenon, based exclusively on the spectacular manifestation of violence, is currently one of the main concerns of decision-making bodies at European level. It is possible that we will soon be witnessing, in the European space, on the basis

of the recommendations of the European Parliament Resolution of 12 December 2007 on the fight against terrorism and the Treaty of Lisbon, a joint evaluation exercise of the European Counter-Terrorism Strategy. to prepare a new form of high-level dialogue in this field, in which the representatives of the citizens at the level of the European Union will be associated”.

The United Nations Global Counterterrorism Strategy encourages the continued development of volunteer programs and national assistance systems that promote the needs of victims of terrorism and their families, in the sense of social reintegration by facilitating the normalization of life. The U.N. promotes international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism and recommends that civil society be involved in a comprehensive campaign to condemn terrorism. In this regard, the Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism

of 9 September 2008 can be exemplified to develop best practices for the rehabilitation of victims.

The promotion of human rights and the sustainability of human rights programs will be important segments in ensuring the balance between the state coercive force and civil society, especially in the fight against terrorism.

Combating this scourge will not involve renouncing or altering fundamental human rights. Under normal circumstances, civil rights protection must not be ensured to the detriment of freedoms and democratic values, which is why Council of Europe Resolution 1400 of 2004 considers that „lack of democracy means a victory for terrorism”. Any violation of these rights may weaken efforts to effectively counter the anti-crime and anti-terrorist phenomenon.

Tragic events, including those at Madrid's Atocha Station, London's Heathrow Underground Station and the U.S. Embassy in Istanbul, have created a new framework for developing the concept of the civilian population's reluctance to terrorism. The survivors of the terrorist attacks developed as a result of stress symptoms, symptoms that were

also found in other people who did not participate directly in these events. Specialists in the field (Archetti and Taylor) believe that even we, those who watched live on TV, customized the event and found ourselves, in our own mental construction, in the position of potential victims. Mentally, the terrorist threat is as important as the real confrontation.

Romanian society is not indifferent to the risk situations associated with terrorism and crime. Authorized institutions, experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations launched in 2008 a scientific project to investigate how the civilian population perceives terrorism, the activity of terrorist groups and the effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies adopted by institutional factors. The mentioned project also aimed at the scientific investigation of the population's attitude and the feeling of insecurity in view of the existence of the terrorist danger. Based on opinion polls extended to over 1000 people, the sociological investigation of the project reached the definition of 8 dimensions of population resilience, as follows: level of knowledge of the terrorist

phenomenon, perception of terrorist risks, preventive behavior and security education, perception to the responsible institutions, reporting to the media, personal (personality) characteristics, major stressors and the social environment.

We can understand that all specific efforts to eliminate all terrorist threats are not only subscribed to the tasks of specialized institutions, but also to the conscience and civil responsibility. The state-civil society dialogue through communication programs, the active involvement of citizens in the act of education, the consolidation of the security culture and the rejection of any antisocial concept are just a few prerequisites for an effective process of preventing and combating terrorism.

- C.E.E.X. Project - Research on the response and resilience of the Romanian population to risk situations associated with terrorism and crime (developed by the Police Academy, the National Intelligence Academy, the Land Forces Academy, the National Defense College, etc.)



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AWARDING THE BATTLE FLAG TO THE „VLAD TEPEȘ” SPECIAL INTERVENTION BRIGADE OF THE ROMANIAN GENDARMERIE



On 11 February, the Special Intervention Brigade „Vlad Tepeș” of the Romanian Gendarmerie celebrated a double event, 15 years since its establishment and awarding over of the Battle Flag, as a recognition of the professionalism and efforts made over the years to fulfill the most high level of entrusted missions. The moment with a deep emotional charge in the life of the Brigade was marked by a special ceremony that included a service of consecration of the flag, its awarding, the reading of the decree and the inauguration of a mobile command post.

photo: Marcella Dragan

The Battle Flag was handed by the police quaestor Florea Oprea, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the presence of many personalities, former commanders of the Special Intervention Brigade „Vlad Tepeș” and its pioneer units. The decree granting the Battle Flag was read by the police quaestor Crisan Ion, adviser in the presidential administration.

„The flag is Romania, this blessed land, sanctified with the blood of our ancestors and enriched with the sweat of the workers (...) it is also the past, present and future of the country, the entire history

of Romania. The flag is still the symbol of devotion, faith, order and discipline that represents the army”, said, more than 160 years ago, the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza, when he handed the Army the first Battle Flag.

„The Battle Flag is awarded to large units and military units, by decree of the President of Romania, at the proposal of the Minister of National Defense, the Minister of Interior or the director of the Romanian Intelligence Service. The Battle Flag evokes the glorious fighting past of the Romanian people for national freedom and the fighting

traditions of unity, reminding every soldier of the sacred duty to faithfully serve the country, to defend at all costs the unity, sovereignty and independence of Romania. The Battle Flag of the unit is intended for use in special activities in the life of the Special Intervention Brigade „Vlad Tepeș” of the Gendarmerie and is a symbol of bravery, dedication and honor shown by the gendarmerie in the missions they performed.

The awarding of the Battle Flag highlights the trust and appreciation enjoyed by this elite unit of the Romanian Gendarmerie. It also reflects once

again the appreciations received by the Romanian gendarmes, both in the missions in the country and in the theaters of operations outside it. In the army, the flag began to represent the military unit itself. During the War of Independence, it proved to be what it is today: a symbol of military honor, glory and bravery.

The Battle Flag is removed from the sealed window only with the unit commander’s approval and only at certain military ceremonies - Romania’s National Day, Flag Day, Hymn Day, Army Day, military oath, and even military funeral. Whenever it is taken out, the Battle Flag is defended by the flag guard, which consists of 7 members - the commander of the guard, the military flag bearer and five companions. All members of the flag guard are armed with war ammunition, and if the integrity of the Battle Flag is threatened, the guard defends it even at the cost of his life,” the B.S.I.J. statement reads.

„Vlad Tepeș” Special Intervention Brigade

The Special Intervention Brigade „Vlad Tepeș” of the Gendarmerie is the specialized structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with general territorial competence, which performs, under the law, attributions in the field of preventing and combating acts of terrorism and organized crime, acts to ensure and restore public order, as well as for the fulfillment of international missions according to the commitments assumed by Romania. Within the Special Brigade of the Gendarmerie, there are specialized personnel: paratroopers, divers, snipers, climbers and pyrotechnicians, necessary for the fulfillment of

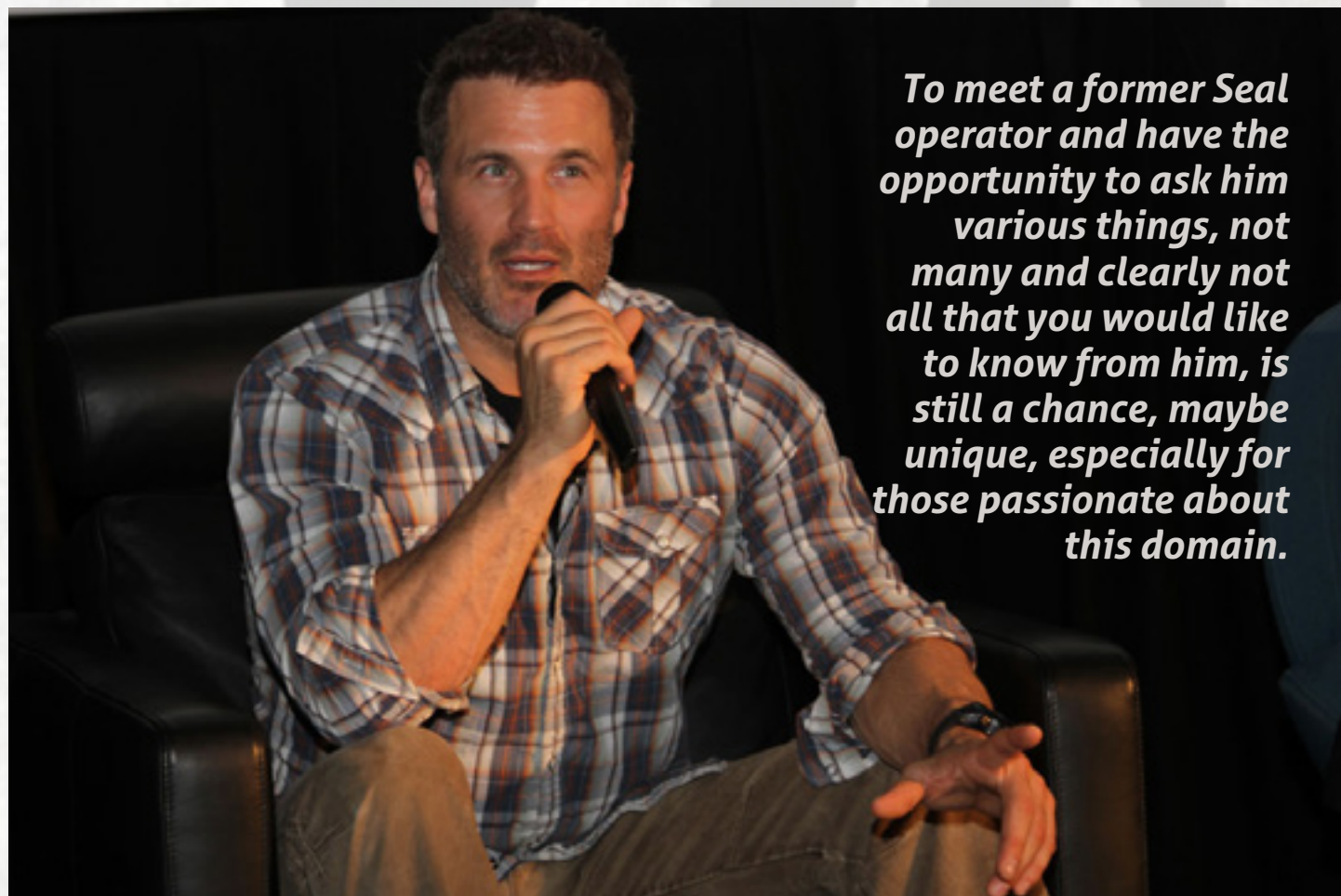


the whole spectrum of missions that belong to this unit. Their level of training is particularly high to be able to carry out their missions in good conditions, even in situations of major risk. Through its endowment and organization and its mode of action, the Special Intervention Brigade of the Gendarmerie is structurally, actionally and logistically compatible

with similar structures of the European Union. Elite unit of the Gendarmerie, Special Intervention Brigade „Vlad Tepeș” is a member since 2011 of the Atlas Group, an organization that brings together intervention structures of the law enforcement sector in the European Union, with legal responsibilities in the field of counterterrorism and general territorial competence.

The Special Gendarmerie Brigade acts in cooperation with all structures in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Defense System, with representatives of the Public Ministry, etc., in order to dismantle organized crime networks (to combat human trafficking, drug trafficking, cybercrime etc.), for the implementation of the warrants issued by the judicial bodies, as well as for the fight against the economic-financial macro-crime. The B.S.I.J. are responsible for counterterrorism intervention measures to government objectives, of strategic interest or of special importance for the activity of the state, as well as for counterterrorism intervention to the objectives under the responsibility of the M.A.I. et and other objectives, at the request of the Romanian Intelligence Service (national authority in the field of terrorism), in relation to the evolution of the operational situation. B.S.I.J. ensures the protection of some official delegations and some high Romanian or foreign dignitaries while they are on the Romanian territory. Also, B.S.I.J. participates in rescue-evacuation missions in case of natural disasters or disasters (participated in numerous rescue missions together with representatives of I.G.Av. during floods and rescue actions following massive snowfalls).

Manhunt with Joel Lambert OR HOW TO HUNT a FORMER Navy Seal



To meet a former Seal operator and have the opportunity to ask him various things, not many and clearly not all that you would like to know from him, is still a chance, maybe unique, especially for those passionate about this domain.

text & photo: Marcella Dragan photo: [Discovery](#) / [Cristian Vasile Photography](#)

I had such a chance at the event organized by Discovery Networks with the support of UPC Romania to promote the premiere of the show Manhunt in Romania, which I recommend and which you can see starting with 2 March on Discovery at 10 pm.

Everything was organized in the form of a conference - a dialogue in which Joel Lambert, host of the latest Discovery Channel show, Manhunt, and former Navy Seal for ten years answered almost all our curiosities, either by telling us from behind the scenes or showing us short sequences.

Manhunt is a show that follows Joel in an extreme version of

the „hide-and-seek” game. With only what he can carry in a backpack, Joel competes with members of the world’s most prestigious military troops and pursuit teams, trying to hold out for 48 hours without getting caught. Highlighting the thrill of the chase and the ingenuity permanently fueled by the fugitive’s fear of not being caught, the program maintains a high level of adrenaline. Filmed in the United States, Poland, South Africa, the Philippines, Panama and South Korea, each episode follows Joel, who has some advance when he starts from a predetermined starting point.

As both his reputation and the national pride of the elite troops following him are at stake, the stakes are extraordinarily high. Joel must reach a final point of the race in less than two days - also predetermined - because otherwise, he risks being caught. In order to survive, he has minimal supplies at his disposal, but he has to get everything he needs on the route, on his own. An expert in escape and escape missions, Joel identifies and uses the weaknesses of each elite unit in his favor. But his mission is difficult because he has to deal with dehydration, hunger, and nature’s forces.



Speaking about the show and what he does, Joel tells us with a smile: „I break through the defense systems of the countries, I cross borders, I parachute in places where I shouldn’t be, I cross fences, I could say that I am illegally in countries where I should not be. Once there, I survive; I avoid the pursuers using techniques that prevent tracking with dog teams, thermal cameras, or people who specialize in reading traces. I set traps or create false tracks. But, on the other hand, the special forces in those countries, whether police

or military teams, make every effort and contribute with all the equipment at their disposal to track me down and capture me before I get to the extraction point, which is usually 48 hours away. They use helicopters, drones, dog teams, thermal cameras and people trained to read the tracks.”

And as Manhunt is not just a TV show, making this first season was a challenge because of the difficulties in choosing the places where the „hunt” took place.



Being an exercise, a training of these units, who treated it as a real mission, Joel and his team had to overcome the reluctance of the local civilian and military authorities, who did not know what the show would look like, how the pursuit would end and what the final image of the elite pursuing teams will look like. Another important aspect was that these are operational units, with a daily activity that they have to carry out and that did not have much time for such actions. Then there was the identification of

those units that would agree to participate, because they were looking for very good teams, very well trained, with many resources, but which are also very proud, and to be located in difficult areas, with as many challenges as possible.

And then comes the preparation part of each show, for which there is never enough time. Because the most important part in carrying out a mission is training. The more time he has for physical training, for knowing the terrain, the teams he will have to escape from, the more he can get acquainted with the equipment and the resources offered by the field, the less time he will spend thinking and analyzing the situation on the ground and will be able to act faster based on instinct. „The better I can program my „inner computer“, the faster I can act, and I don't waste time thinking about what to do in each situation. It's a memory of muscles, like when you're too tired to pull or move, but the body continues because it's trained to act, to think. We can think with the mind, but our body has the ability to think for itself if it is allowed to do so. Because, many times, everything comes down to that one moment, in which you have to react then, on the spot. It all comes down to the mental condition and it all depends on it. If your body gives up because of your mental condition, then you have lost. Because you're as strong as he is your weakest point. As in a group in which the power of all members is given by the weakest of them. That is why I have to be strong mentally, physically, because my strength is given by my greatest weakness. And these shows totally demand me, at the end I am completely exhausted.

Even if it's a TV show, it's not a game, I give everything I have during the race, and so do those who try to catch me. It is pride, honor, a demonstration of what we are as people, fighters, it is a brotherhood of the defenders of the national territory, of the defenders against terrorism and organized crime. More important than the risk you take is faith and loyalty to yourself, to what you do, the responsibility to honor your profession, the legacy of the SEAL troops I always carry with me. It is the strongest thing that leads my life, the respect for my brothers, for who they are, for the funerals I attended. The biggest risk for me is not to give everything I can on the field, not to live up to expectations, not to be as good as I can be.”

Unlike the footage filmed during the show, the hunt in Bucharest, which followed the conference, was a game, demonstrating several tracking and escape techniques used in urban areas.

Discovery fans could watch the pursuit of Joel Lambert by three local teams via live stream. Joel's starting point was Grand Cinema & More, within Baneasa Shopping City, and the final point was the



building of the Lido Hotel, where Joel went down in rappelling, winning the race with his followers.

The Alpha team, made up of two Romanians specialized in search, escort and special actions, the Bravo team, specialized in rescue and recovery missions, and the Charlie team, made up of security and VIP protection experts, were the ones who followed Joel on the streets of Bucharest, being guided online by Discovery fans. Both Joel Lambert and the tracking teams used location systems via GPS technology, each movement being broadcast live on the interactive map available on the website. As a result, online participants received information about Joel's position and direction of travel, and were able to make decisions about the actions of the field tracking teams.

Joel Lambert

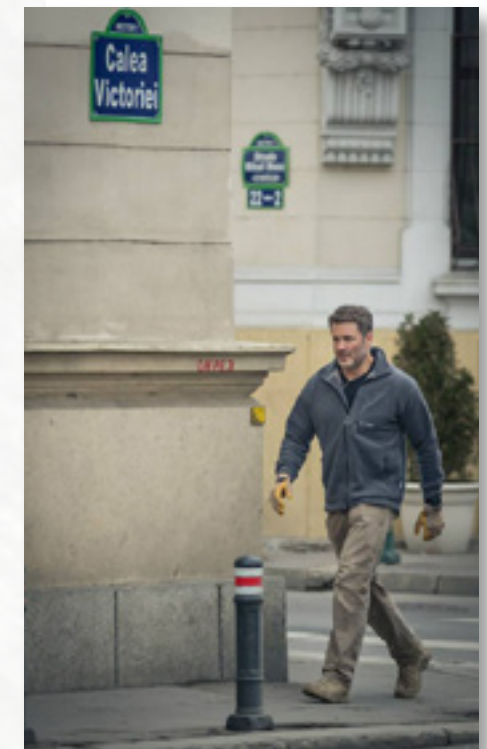
Joel Lambert is a former member of the US Navy's SEAL troops, with outstanding skills and excellent training. He is always eager to look for new challenges and test his professional and personal



limits, he makes constant efforts in this regard and shows no signs of wanting to stop.

Joel grew up in Washington, D.C., in a small town on the Columbia River. Ever since he was young, he realized that he wanted to do challenging things and that he would always choose adrenaline-filled options. One day, he decided to become a member of the SEAL troops, recognizing that this was the ultimate challenge he had sought. At the age of 22, Joel showed up at the Navy recruiting office. He has been preparing for a long time to make sure that he is in excellent physical shape and that he will be accepted. In 1998, he became a member of the US Navy's SEAL Special Forces, of which he was a proud member for 10 years. He was sent on combat missions to places such as Afghanistan, the European War Theater and Kosovo. He was part of the SEAL 2 & 4 Teams for 8 years, in which he planned and participated in over 20 combat missions; was the head of the department dealing with the weapons and optical equipment needed for 16 SEAL operators; trained members of SEAL troops and foreign personnel for special operations in Singapore, Thailand, Greece, Egypt, Germany, the Netherlands and Estonia. Joel has multiple qualifications, including training in the use of heavy weapons; launching of Stinger missiles; survival, escape, resistance

and escape missions; defense and combat missions indoors; special diving supervisor; military paratrooper training. After his last mission in Afghanistan, Joel spent 2 years as an instructor in BUD / S, the special program for evaluating and selecting future members of the US Navy's SEAL troops. He took on this new role knowing that if he prepared the next generation of divers, his contribution would be as important as his direct involvement in the fight. As an instructor, Joel earned the „Master Training Specialist“ award in recognition of his excellent training and instructor skills.



Going gray – as a term for the city - is a principle that can be used for any other environment in which a person is. Take what you have available, surrounding vegetation or other elements of the place where you are, clothes, colors, face paint, and use them to merge, camouflage as well as possible in that environment. The principle is the same, the execution differs from case to case.

Although this is one of the most useful things he has learned over time, Joel advises us not to rely on a single tactic in survival situations. Because, if you have only one tactic, then you will try to adapt the situation around you to that tactic. You need to have several tactics to adapt to the situation.

Mechanized 81st Brigade - 95 years of activity

Revista Fortelor Terestre



The Chief of Staff of the Land Forces, Major General Nicolae - Ionel Ciuca participated at the beginning of February, in the Bistrita garrison, in the military and religious ceremony occasioned by the decoration of the Battle Flag and the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the 81st Mechanized Brigade Grigore Balan".

The activity was also attended by the commander of the 4th Infantry Division „Gemina”, Brigadier General Adrian Tonea, former brigade commanders, representatives of local public authorities, parliamentarians, heads of institutions in the national defense system, national security and public order, military personnel in reserve and retreat, as well as a large number of the public.

The Commander of the 81st Mechanized Brigade „General Grigore Balan”, Brigadier General Dan - Florin Grecu addressed a word of welcome to all participants to this activity.

Next, the decoration of the

Brigade's Battle Flag with the National Order „For Merit” took place - in the rank of Knight, with the Military Insignia for War, according to Presidential Decree no. 14 of 22.01.2014, signed by the President of Romania.

The religious service was officiated by His Eminence Andrei Andreicuț, Archbishop and Metropolitan of Cluj, Salaj and Maramureș, together with a

council of priests.

In his speech delivered by the Chief of Staff of the Land Forces, Major General Nicolae Ciuca stressed that it is a privilege to be with the Bistrita military at this anniversary, soldiers who over time have participated in all Operations Theaters and who have done their duty to the country with honor, even at the cost of their lives. He also congratulated the entire staff on this occasion and wished them continued success.

The first commander of the brigade in the current organization, Colonel (res.) Constantin Tudorachi recalled the beginning moments of the great unit, which in time became a benchmark in the Romanian Land Forces.

A particularly emotional moment was the presence at the activity of the dean of the age of those who served in the 81st Infantry Regiment, Captain (Ret.) Roman Vasile, a war veteran who reached the venerable age of



101 years. On this occasion, by order of the Minister of National Defense, Mr. Roman Vasile was promoted to the rank of retired major and was awarded the Emblem of Honor of the Romanian Army, with the sign of peace.

The ceremony ended with the parade of brigade units and subunits, in the chords of the Military Music of the garrison, after which a platoon from the 812th Infantry Battalion „Bistrita” presented an exercise in handling weapons, and those present had the opportunity

to visit the stands and the armament of the large unit.

On the same occasion, 2 commemorative plaques were unveiled dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the existence and the presence of the military over time in the Bistrita garrison. 🇷🇴



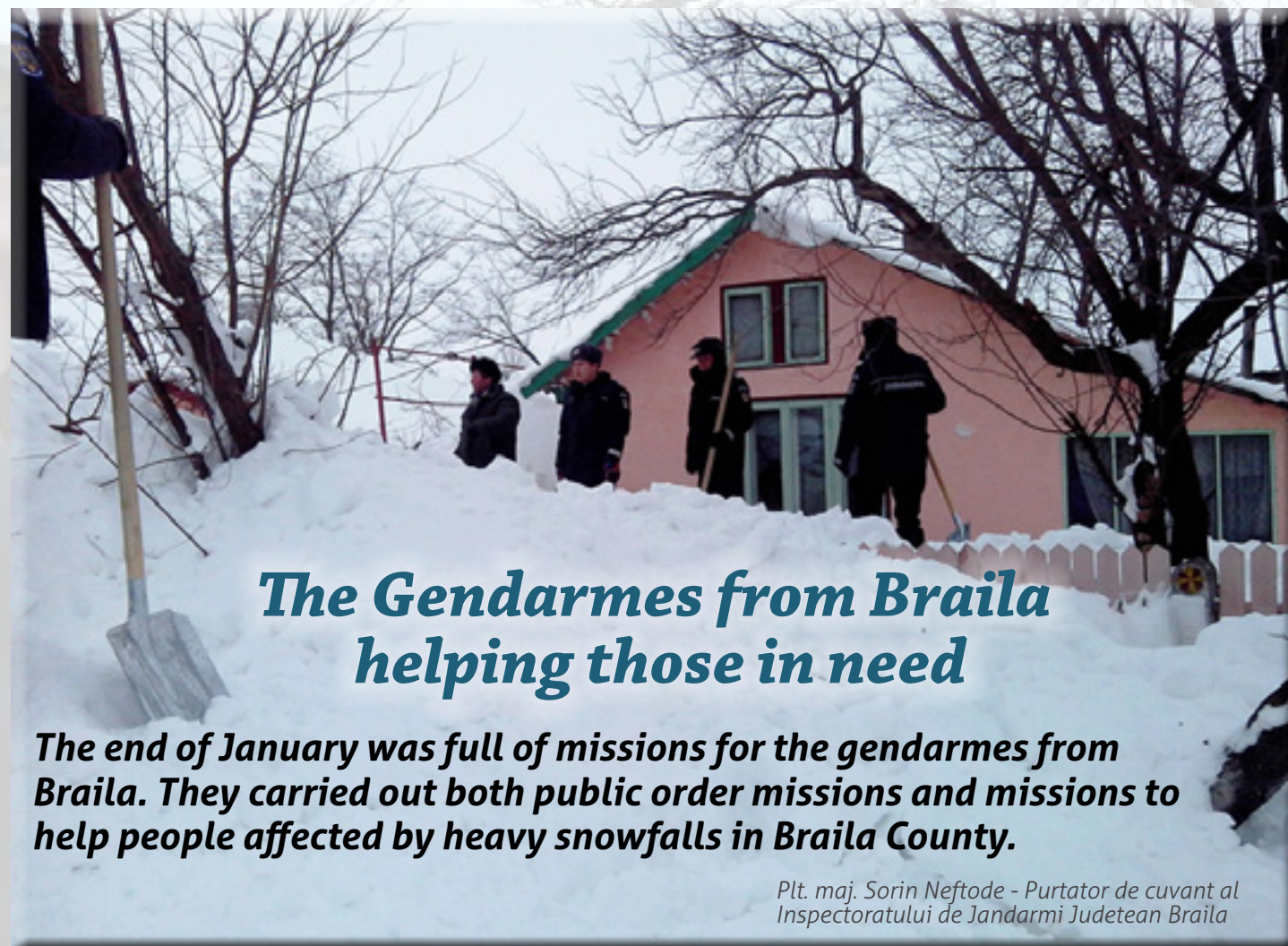
2% for the Artludis Association
(funds are used for a child diagnosed with autism)

HUMANITARIAN ANNOUNCEMENT

Following a routine medical check-up, Sergeant-Major Constantin Ovidiu Rusanu, from the 2nd Calugareni Infantry Battalion, was diagnosed with a 15 cm hepatic-metastatic malignant tumor.

In this sense, the colleagues from the unit appeal to all the comrades from the Ministry of National Defense to raise the necessary funds for a specialized treatment.

Donations can be made to the account in RON with no. RO25BTRL00301201G41415XX, opened in the name of George Rusanu, with the mention: For Ovidiu.



In those days, meteorologists issued, for Braila county, six orange warnings and two red warnings of abundant snow,

strong blizzard and zero visibility.

For more than a week, the servicemen of the Braila County Gendarmerie Inspectorate

participated together with the local authorities as well as the other institutions with attributions in this field, in the



actions of rescuing people, their goods, unblocking some access ways to houses, helping the elderly and those in difficulty, facilitating their access to water sources, places where they stored wood or animal stables.

In those days, the gendarmes cleared 581 households and 654 annexes, 33 public institutions (10 schools, 7 kindergartens, 5 dispensaries, 2 town halls, 6 churches, 3 cultural centers), and 22 water sources, respectively wells, were unblocked.

For the same purpose, on 31 January and 1 February, the staff of the Bacau Mobile Gendarmes Group also acted in Braila.

„A difficult intervention was carried out on Wednesday, 29 January, when 41 fighters from the Braila County Gendarme Inspectorate left for Romanu, Braila County, to help the locals affected by the massive snowfalls. The road to get there was hampered by the blizzard that started to blow hard, although the trip was made with the help of two special vehicles belonging to the Braila Gendarmerie. Visibility was suddenly drastically reduced, and our advance was slower and slower. The strong wind, I think over 80 km per hour, made your breathing harder and harder. On the way to this locality, the gendarmes from Braila helped 6 drivers to cross the snow rolls formed on the road. Among them was the driver of a commercial company, which transported the bread to the shops in the locality, noticed the traffic jam, and called the unique emergency system 112.

It was decided to form a column of cars, which was driven safely to the first locality.

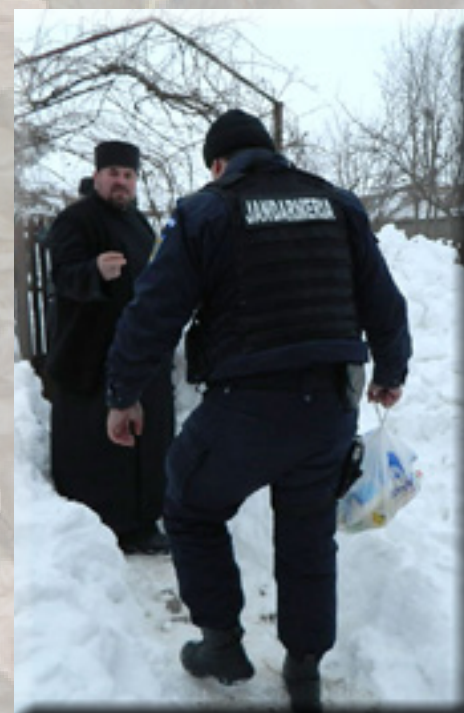
And after end of the red warning and stopping of the snow, the gendarmes from Braila came to the aid of the citizens from the

rural area, affected by the massive snowfalls. One such mission was the one in which the workers of the Braila Gendarmerie were close to the people in localities where time seemed to stand still, with an aging population and difficult living conditions. Thus, on Thursday, 6 February, the gendarmes transported and distributed basic food products in Pantecani and Galbenu villages, located approximately 90 km from Braila municipality, somewhere on the border with Buzau county. The mission was possible as a result of the partnership between the County Inspectorate of Gendarmes of Braila and Carrefour Romania



S.A., the staple foods consisting of: pork and chicken pies, flour, corn, rice, plain water, sugar, oil and bread. In those terrible days, the gendarmes were perhaps the only hope of the locals. In order to exclude any political temptation but also to know the concrete social cases in these localities, the products were distributed through the parish priest. The first households I entered were the most affected, almost buried in the snow. Their

owners, sick old, helpless, lonely women, received us with tears in their eyes. On their faces, one could read a sincere and innocent joy, not so much for the products that were offered to them, as for the fact that someone thought of them, for the kind words received. In these villages, because the young people went to work in the city, there are not many people in power, and thus the spirit of solidarity specific to the rural area has almost disappeared. I talked



to elders bent over by years and weights, who, in order to be able to move, were helped by a cane. To these, the gendarmes also brought wood, which was often stored behind the yard, in the open air, and now they were under the snow. This action is not a singular one, the Braila Gendarmerie performing such activities of support of the citizens in the past.



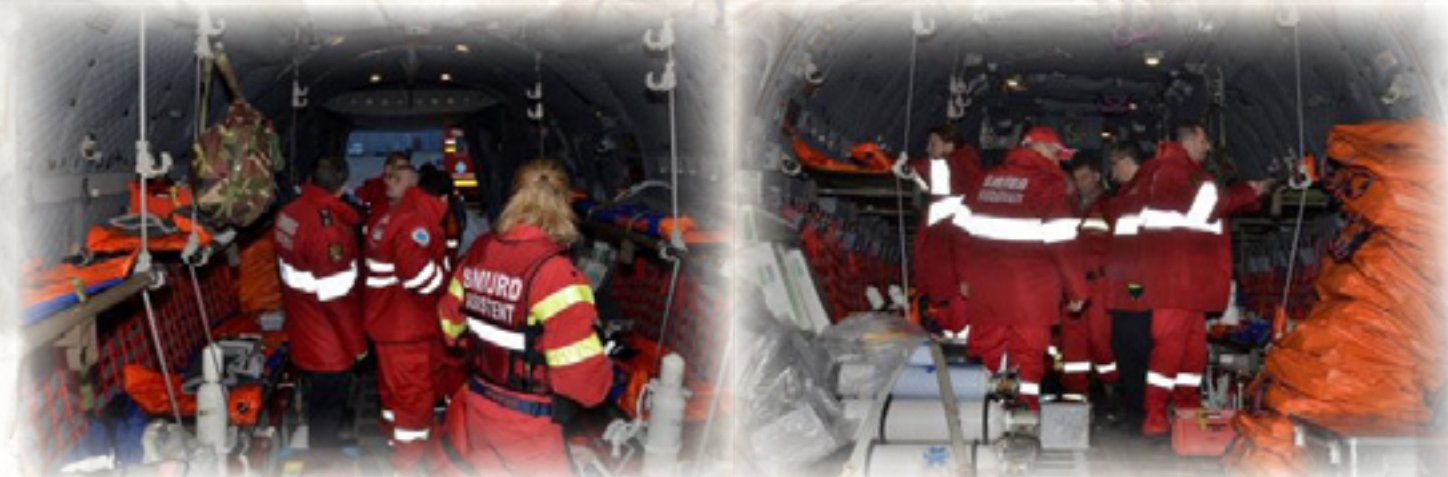
Romanian authorities involved in helping Ukrainian citizens injured in recent conflicts in Ukraine



Romanian authorities have been involved in helping wounded Ukrainian citizens in recent conflicts in Ukraine. The humanitarian mission to Ukraine took place on Saturday, 1 March 2014.

The Ukrainian authorities have informed the officials of the Romanian Embassy in Ukraine about the persons who can be transported for medical care in Romania. For this purpose, the military plane belonging to the

Ministry of National Defense, specially prepared for carrying out this humanitarian mission, took off from Base 90 Otopeni to Kiev. Doctors from SMURD Bucharest were on board the plane, ensuring that the injured



people were safely transported under medical supervision.

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations had prepared 4 vans for transporting multiple victims, who took the injured people on landing in Romania and transported them to hospitals in Bucharest.

Through the Ministry of Health, measures were taken to prepare for the admission of these patients in the University,

Elias, Bagdasar and Floreasca hospitals, the distribution on the medical units of each case being made according to the medical situation of the injured,

established based on the assessments of the medical team.

This humanitarian mission was coordinated, at the request of Deputy Prime Minister Gabriel Oprea, Interim Minister of Internal Affairs, by the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Interior Dr. Raed Arafat, and was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Health.



Black scorpions return after three years in Zabul province, Afghanistan

Starting with 12 February, the „Black Scorpions” of the 20th Infantry Battalion took over the responsibilities of their comrades from the 151st Infantry Battalion „Black Wolves” and began their mission, not at all easy, in a hot area of Afghanistan: Zabul province.



Locotenent-colonel Oliver ANGHEL [Revista Fortelor Terestre]
Photo: imagini puse la dispoziție de Batalionul 20 Infanterie

It is not a novelty for many Craiova soldiers, many of them having a rich international experience. Only a handful are on the first mission. After three

years, returning to the same area of operations and, moreover, to the same advanced bases of operations - Apache and Mescall - is an asset. However, they are



aware that it is not easy, and the mission of the 2014 battalion will be different from that of 2011. The security situation is still unstable, and insurgents are operating in all areas of Afghanistan, including Zabul province.

At the end of the ceremony at the Apache base of operations, on the occasion of the transfer of authority, the commander of the 20th Infantry Battalion „Black Scorpions”, Lieutenant-Colonel Catalin Jianu, declares: „for the soldiers of the 20th Infantry Battalion «Black Scorpions» from Craiova. Our presence for the second time in the same area of operations is for us a new confirmation that our international experience allows us to perform, once again, a mission in the theater of operations in Afghanistan.”

Practically, from this moment, on the occasion of the transfer of authority, the soldiers of the 20th Infantry Battalion Black Scorpions begin their missions in the area of responsibility and, as our comrades from the 151st Infantry Battalion Black Wolves fulfilled their mission, so and we will fulfill it: with professionalism, courage and dedication.”

Since their arrival in the area of responsibility, the Black Scorpions have rapidly begun their new mission, especially on the A1 highway, a communication that connects two of the largest cities in Afghanistan: the country’s capital, Kabul, and the city of Kandahar.

It is important to maintain freedom of movement on this trade route both for coalition



forces and for local authorities and the civilian population in the province. On the safety of the highway depends the local and national economy, the movement of passenger and commercial vehicles ensuring economic development and the return of Afghan society and people to a normal life.

Taking on a mission in an operating theater gives you a special feeling. First of all, you will think if it will be difficult, if you will encounter difficult situations, what dangers may arise, how you will react in case of a crisis situation, if

you are prepared enough for the following missions. For an experienced soldier, after performing several international assignments in various theaters of operations, it would be natural to think that it will be an easy mission if you operate in the same area of operations. But experience teaches you that routine is dangerous and can get you in trouble most of the time. Since 2011 and until now, insurgents have diversified their actions, constantly adapting to new technologies, launching complex terrorist actions against government officials and local

people, and, last but not least, coalition forces. A difficult period follows for the Craiova military, 2014 being an election year in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; being also the year when the forces of the international coalition end their mandate on the basis of which they act in this country.

The „Black Scorpions” are confident in their strength and are able to fulfill the mission they have begun. Victory belongs to those who believe in it, and the „Black Scorpions” have made a living out of this belief.

Semper Victores!





The American transit point from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base is fully operational

download Stars and Stripes

[MK AIR BASE, Romania]

A temporary U.S. transit base that will serve as the main crossing point for U.S. troops leaving Afghanistan reached full capacity in early March. Starting with 2 February, approximately 6,000 American soldiers transited the center from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base - or MK Air Base.

"It's an ideal location for us in terms of capacity," Maj. John O'Connor, commander of the 21st Theater Support Command, said in a recent interview with "Stars and Stripes." O'Connor said that the United States has already built 85 buildings for previous missions that can support about 1,500 people at MK Air Base.

Beginning in late December, members of Command 21 expanded the infrastructure to accommodate up to 2,000 soldiers in transit and 400 members of military personnel conducting the operation. A ribbon-cutting ceremony, held on Friday in a processing tent built on a parking lot adjacent to the airfield signaled that the base is ready to handle the full flow of troops coming and going to Afghanistan.

MK Air Base replaces the transit center in Manas, Kyrgyzstan, which has handled hundreds of thousands of troops since the start of the war a few weeks after

11 September, 2001. The Kyrgyz government has refused to extend the lease on Manas, forcing the US to find another location to station his forces. Following previous threats by the Kyrgyz government to close the Manas operation, the United States has begun testing the possibility of transit operations in Romania, O'Connor said. He said that about 20,000 U.S. troops from the United States and Germany have transited MK Air Base on their way to Afghanistan in the past two years before the transit center opened in early February. These troop movements have helped military planners decide how much additional infrastructure the Army needs to install and manage the full flow of troops to and from Afghanistan.

The first flight of about 300 soldiers arrived at the newly expanded MK center on 2 February. On Friday, some 1,800 troops in transit were accommodated in an area a short drive from the processing center. Reporters who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony did not see this part of the base. "It was very busy," Pfc said. Bryan Orlando, a human resources specialist from Waterford, California, who helps process transit personnel. "I got a lot of flights."

O'Connor said four C-17 transport planes and up to four wide-body commercial aircraft will carry troops in and out of the center

each day, about half going to Afghanistan, half at home.

But, almost three weeks after reaching the initial operating capacity, from the beginning of February, only troops heading to the conflict zone passed through MK Air Base. In the last week, the flow has been in both directions. "So we are definitely seeing an increase in the pace of operations," said Sgt. Bart Khan, a human resources specialist, came here from the Lewis-McChord Joint Base in Washington.

The construction of additional tents and accommodation and dining buildings for 2,000 soldiers in transit, as well as contracts for cooks, garbage and other basic operations, cost about \$ 11 million, O'Connor said. The base's operating costs for the 10 months from now until the withdrawal of all combat troops from Afghanistan are estimated at \$ 18 million to \$ 20 million, O'Connor added. If the United States were to build the entire base from scratch, O'Connor said the cost would probably exceed \$ 100 million.

At this time, the main purpose of the transit center is to facilitate the free movement of staff. But it is also ready to handle the transport of equipment if other transport routes, such as those from Afghanistan through Pakistan, are stopped or overwhelmed by transit volume, O'Connor said. O'Connor said that the 400 soldiers running the MK Air Base operation are about a third of those at the Manas base. But Manas had other missions besides transporting troops, it also hosted a fleet of refueling planes used to refuel military aircraft flying over Afghanistan, but that part of the mission is also over.

According to the Air Force, the last KC-135 aircraft landed in Manas on 24 February, after powering A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons flying out of Afghanistan.



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- Eroii au fost, eroii sunt încă
- Caminul - spital "Sfântul Gheorghe"
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"Mediul trebuie protejat"

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