

#05

TACTICA

magazine

EODD
EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE
DETECTING
DOGS

NATO
10 Years on

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International Exhibition & Conference for Defense,
Homeland Security, Cyber Security, Safety & Security and Aerospace

EDITORIAL EDITORIAL EDITORIAL

Anniversary times

If I were to define the days between mid-March and early April, I would only need two words: NATO and anniversary. And not necessarily related to each other.

These were holidays, each of them an excellent opportunity to get to know and make a foray into the daily life of the military, police and gendarmes. Each anniversary was marked by an "open door" event, complemented by the program known as "A different School", which gave students, from the youngest to the oldest, the chance to step into military units and institutions where access is restricted most of the time. The gates of the Ministry of Defense, military units and headquarters of various services belonging to the police and gendarmerie were opened.

And we had the 10th anniversary of NATO. Marking a decade since Romania joined the North Atlantic Alliance was a good opportunity to see the evolution of the national army in recent years. Gathered together, all the small steps made by Romania all this time show a remarkable leap. Of course, there is definitely room for better or more could have been done. But at least now at the anniversary hour, let us enjoy the appreciation received by our soldiers from our foreign colleagues in the theaters of operations, congratulate those who gave their best every day to achieve these results and remember those who made the supreme sacrifice by giving their lives.

We will have time, and I hope we will also have the wisdom, to see what has not been done properly, where we have gone wrong, what can be improved.

Marcella Dragan



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Decorated Romanian soldiers by the French Army

Nine Romanian soldiers who participated in joint actions with French soldiers in the theater of operations in Afghanistan were awarded medals by the French Embassy in Bucharest during a ceremony that took place at the headquarters of the Land Forces.

The event was attended by His Excellency, the French Ambassador to Bucharest, Mr. Philippe Gustin, who, on behalf of the Minister of National Defense of the French Republic, presented the medals, the Secretary of State for Defense and Planning Policy, Valeriu Nicuț, Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Stefan Danila, Chief of Staff of the Land Forces, Major General Nicolae Ciuca, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Major General Laurian Anastasof, Commander of the Medal and wounded soldiers in the theaters of operations and personnel of the Land Forces and Air Force.

The medals from the Minister of National Defense of the French Republic were „Defense Nationale” - Silver, „Defense Nationale” - Bronze and the medal „Commemorative Francais”

and were awarded as follows: National Defense Medal, silver echelon with the „tank weapon” clip awarded to Major Lucian Oancea, National Defense Medal, bronze echelon with the „tank weapon” clasp was awarded to Lieu-tenant-Colonel Vasile Godeanu, Captain Nicolae Dragan, and Chief Adjutant-Lieutenant Catalin Sarbu and the French Commemorative Medal with the „Afghanistan” clasp was awarded to the following military: lieutenant-colonel Nicolae-Marius Moneanu, lieutenant-colonel Marian-Constantin Radulescu, captain Ionuț-Mihai Pruteanu, chief military foreman Adelin Dima and lieutenant-major Radu-Iosif Moldovan.

On behalf of all the medalist soldiers, Major Lucian Oancea, commander of the tank training company, and instructor at the Land Forces Tank and Car Training Center, said: „We are proud that together with the French military we can report that the Mission has been accomplished! We are proud that side by side with our partners, we have left behind the Franco-Romanian Detachment EPIDOTE a school capable of

functioning independently in the service of the Afghan army and people. We are happy that we have accumulated a vast and precious experience and I am convinced that we have managed to add another stone to the foundation of the traditional relations of Franco-Romanian friendship and col-laboration, past, present and certainly future. We receive these distinctions with pride and honor, as we are the messengers of the comrades of the teams of instructors who served in the EPIDOTE Detachment and we assure you that any of them deserved to be here today, because the success was collective.”

Speaking to the audience, His Excellency the French Ambassador to Bucharest, Mr. Philippe Gustin underlined: „.... I am therefore very proud to have the opportunity today to offer on behalf of France a decoration to these nine soldiers with whom the French soldiers have had the honor of serving. These decorations want to remind them of our gratitude for the work done with us and for the spirit of col-laboration. These decorations

are also a testament to the high-level operational cooperation that our countries have in NATO and European Union operations. „

In the speech delivered by the Secretary of State for Defense and Planning Policies, Valeriu Nicuț, noted the good collaboration between the two countries, both throughout history and today. „I am sure that the medals offered today by His Excellency, the French Ambassador to Bucharest, Mr. Philippe Gustin, represent not only the expression of professionalism and camaraderie, proven by the Romanian and French military, but also the confidence the French partner has in the Romanian army, from the moment of joining NATO until now, in the ten years of achievements in the field of operationalization of the Land, Naval and Air Forces, establishment and training of special forces and, perhaps most importantly, in investments in human resources, without which all of the above would not have been possible. „

At the end of the ceremony, the decorated soldiers said a few words about their experience in Afghanistan, which was difficult and very responsible, because they were the ones who trained the instructors who will lay the foundations of the Afghan army. One thing that helped was the character of the Romanians, who worked very easily with both the Afghans and the French, being a link between all the soldiers participating in the mission. They all mentioned that the medals they received are due to the entire team they were part of, without which they would not have managed the performances that brought them recognition today from the French partners.

NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan (NTM-A) was part of the ISAF mission, conducted



in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, NATO member and partner countries, with the support of international and non-governmental organizations and domestic donors, in order to establish the forces of the Afghan National Army capable of ensuring the security and lasting stability necessary for the socio-economic development of this country.

The Romanian military participated in the NTM-A, between January 2011 and December 2013, with almost 130 soldiers, who ensured the six rotations.

The mission of the instructor team

- the Tank School - was to prepare and train Afghan instructors in the field of armor vehicles such as tanks, armored carriers, mobile bridges on tank chassis, derivatives, etc.), including firing and maintenance procedures.

The teams of instructors, composed of Romanian and French soldiers, trained Afghan instructors through specialized courses and coordinated and advised/mentored the key personnel of the Afghan National Army, both in the field of knowledge and maintenance of armored equipment and in the field of planning/organization of different specialized courses and teaching methodology.



Conference „AFCEA Europe TechNet International and the NATO C4ISR Industry Conference 2014“, in Bucharest

AFCEA Europe TechNet International and the NATO C4ISR Industry Conference 2014, organized by the NATO Communications and Informatics Agency (NCIA), in collaboration with the Electronics and Communications Association for the Armed Forces (AFCEA) and with the support of the Technical Research Agency and Military Technologies (ACTTM) within the Department of Armaments took place on March 25-27 in Bucharest.

The event was attended by senior officials from the North Atlantic Alliance, the Government of Romania, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Administration and Interior, along with about 700 representatives from 40 companies, members of the technical, operational and academic community.

The event was an opportunity to inform each other about concerns in the field and to identify business opportunities in the context of regional and international cooperation. The conference also addressed issues such as cyber security and the new generation of C2 services (command-control), and an exhibition was organized with products and services of companies from NATO member countries.

The welcome speeches and the opening of the Conference were given by MGEN Koen Gijsbers (CDT), Director General, NCI Agency and MGEN Klaus-Peter Treche, DEU AF (CDT), General Manager, AFCEA Europe.

Following the 2013 Rome conference, it is estimated that up to € 2 billion in business opportunities will be announced in areas to be highlighted later this year at the NATO Summit in Wales.

The purpose of this conference is to provide an early warning of potential business opportunities coming in the next 18 months



so that the industry can prepare for the competition. Some of the projects are to be approved by NATO resource commissions and may be affected by changes in NATO operations and missions. But several projects have already been authorized and the call for tenders will be launched.

„This year's event will also enable small and medium-sized enterprises to compete better in investing in important NATO capabilities," said Gijsbers, Director General of the NCI Agency.

Some of the specific opportunities that were discussed included:

- The way forward for the largest IT modernization within NATO to date;

- The next generation of cyber defense;
- FOC missile defense - critical ability;
- ongoing support and investment in the Air Command and Control Program (C2);
- information, surveillance and reconnaissance, including through Alliance Terrestrial Surveillance (AGS) capabilities, owned and operated by NATO
- Core company services - keeping NATO connected, including to the new NATO HQ;
- command and control services - keeping connected political and military headquarters;
- CIS support - static and implemented capabilities to support each operation NATO.

Minister Mircea Dusa requests funds for the Ministry of National Defense

The Minister of Defense, Mircea Dusa, declared, on Wednesday, at the conference with the topic „Romania's profile in NATO 10 years after integration", that the budget of this ministry must be in the attention of state institutions considering the politico-military situation in Ukraine.

„All the more so these days, when we have the political and military situation in the Ukraine area, complex and complicated, the problem is that the budgeting of the Ministry of National Defense should be one that is in the attention of state institutions, so that the process of restructuring and recovery of the combat capabilities of the Romanian army so that it can be achieved as soon as possible ...", he said at the conference that took place at the Parliament Palace

The minister underlined that the Romanian army and the Ministry of National Defense have made special efforts in recent years for restructuring, for adaptation to NATO standards, despite the budget that benefited the Ministry of National Defense.

„Over time, with the joy of being welcomed into NATO, politicians have forgotten that the Ministry of National Defense budget is one that will allow them to achieve these capabilities (military - n.r.). For many years in a row, we have forgotten that we have committed ourselves to an allocation of 2.38% of GDP and the allocations were just over 1% of GDP. Of course, when we talk about NATO, we must not make politics about world and national security, but only in 2013 did this process of allocating budgetary resources for the modernization and endowment of the capabilities we assumed when we entered in NATO ...", said the minister.

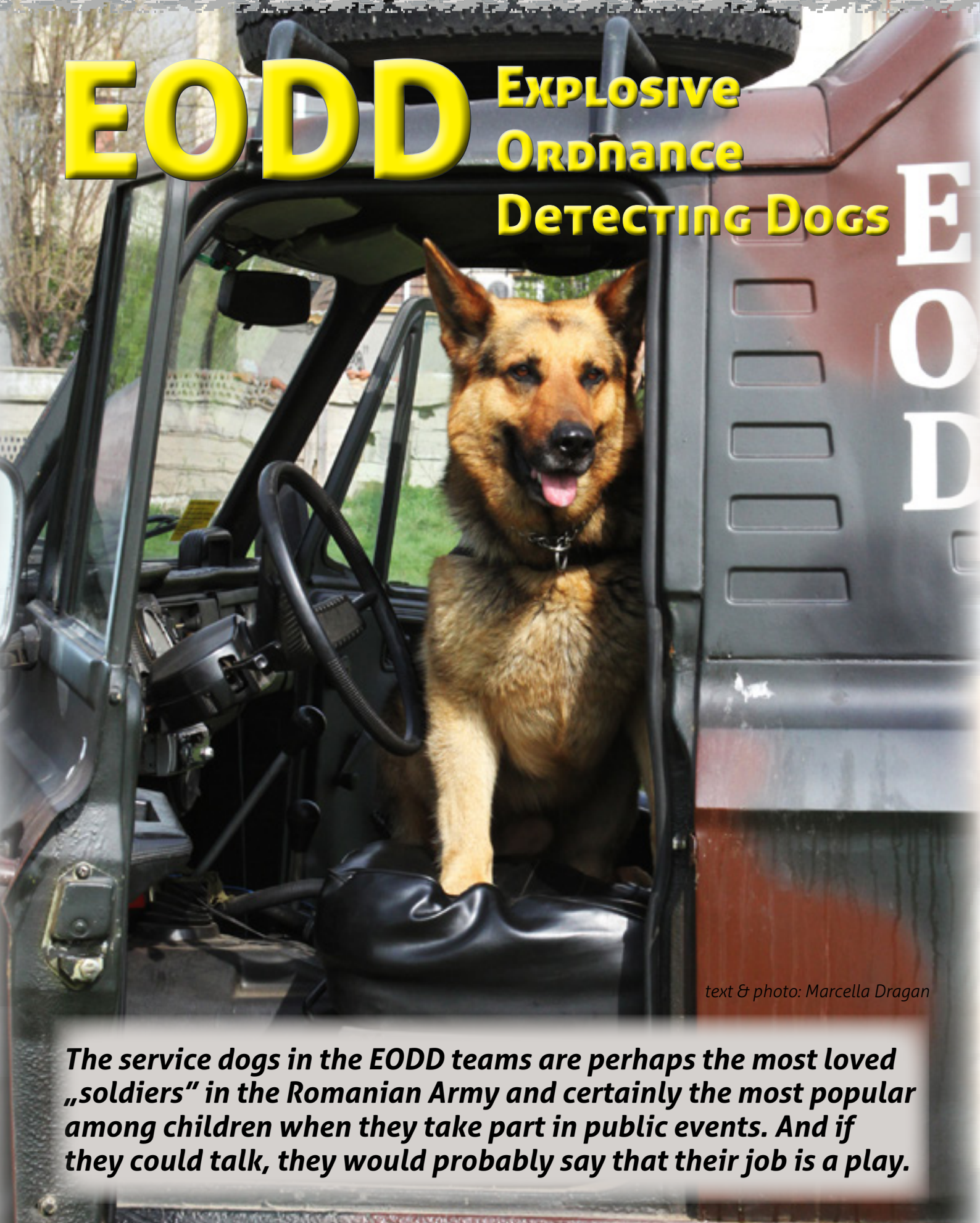
The Minister of Defense explained that, only in one year, taking into account the very high costs for modernization and the realization of the necessary capabilities, „things that have not been solved in time cannot be solved".



The conference organized on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Romania's entry into NATO was also attended by, among others, Prime Minister Victor Ponta, Chief of General Staff, gen. lt. Stefan Danila, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Titus Corlatean, SRI director, George Maior and SIE director, Teodor Melescanu, Iulian Fota, presidential adviser, head of the National Security Department, US Embassy business manager, Duane Butcher, former president and former president Emil Constantinescu and the former prime minister, Petre Roman.

EODD

**EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE
DETECTING DOGS**



text & photo: Marcella Dragan

The service dogs in the EODD teams are perhaps the most loved „soldiers“ in the Romanian Army and certainly the most popular among children when they take part in public events. And if they could talk, they would probably say that their job is a play.



But their role in theaters of operations is an important one, especially in today's conflicts that are so different from classical ones.

A play that I was able to see on the day I was a guest of the EOD Group 2, 1st Infantry Division „DACICA“ that includes the EODD (Explosive Ordnance Detecting Dogs - Detection of Ammunition and Explosive Devices with dog help).

There I met major sergeant Dinca Costin and sergeant major Mocanu Robertino, the first being the handler of Lord, the dog who showed us part of the training they do almost every day. Because, as the two soldiers have explained, there are several factors that influence the daily training of a dog, like his physical condition, his health, and energy, weather conditions, the daily activity being adapted to all that, and can include just walk or play, avoiding drills and identifying explosive materials.

Lord, however, was in excellent shape and did all the exercises



he had prepared for that day. The scenarios of these activities are designed to be as close as possible to situations that may be encountered in theaters of operations. The first exercise was to search a car that might have been at a point of control, entering a forward operating base (FOB) or a military unit. This control is carried out on each vehicle so that it does not contain IED (improvised explosive devices). Then followed a field investigation to find antipersonnel mines. Several false mines were placed

on the ground and only one of them contained a sample of explosives. This is the most used method of dog training, by placing a sample of explosives in different places, such as cars, boxes, bridges, and careful investigation of them by the handler-dog team until the sample is found and then the dog receiving the reward, which most of the time is a small ball and, of course, the love of the handler. The third exercise of the day was the exploration of a bridge, a very common situation in theaters, as in the missions

in Afghanistan, where these objectives were checked with great care.

Once the exercise program is over, Lord has received his ball and he started running and playing, giving us the time to talk about how it is to be a soldier accompanied by a dog in Afghanistan. The biggest difference that the servicemen saw was the reluctance of local people due to cultural differences because there dogs are not pets, and sometimes they are regarded as impure, which made it difficult to

thoroughly check the homes of the locals.

EODD (Explosive Ordnance Detecting Dogs)

The EODD Team consists of a conductor, EOD specialist, and a German shepherd dog.

The teams are formed at the Dog Growing, Training and Training Center in Ramincu Valcea, where the training for the dog is conducted for a period of 4 months, under the direct leadership of the dog's conductor.

The preparation of the canine





team involves both the improvement of the dog's ability to respond promptly and appropriately to the conductor's orders, as well as the improvement of the conductor's skills to act in accordance with the particular circumstances of the tactical environment, namely the proper use of all equipping equipment according to the

specific situation, facing the different types of threats, the dog's correct leadership to operate efficiently, including under the influence of various disturbing factors such as gunfire.

According to a program approved by the unit commander, the training is continued and refined daily,

minimum 2 hours, at the unit where the EODD team is located and is run by the dog conductor. A few more hours are allocated for dog care, maintaining health, feeding, playing and strengthening dog-handler attachment.

Dog training takes place in places, environments, and conditions as close as possible to the reality of the situations encountered in Operational Theaters, but also in various places and situations in the urban environment, such as means of transport, habituating the dog with noises, the presence of foreign persons and other animals, olfactory environment marked by different specific substances.

In the Operational Theaters, the EODD's main mission is to investigate and detect IED as well as other objects containing industrial or artisanal explosives, possibly in suspected parcels, cars, buildings (inhabited, uninhabited or abandoned), control points, open areas and road sections.

These improvised explosive devices (IED) are located in different places, such as: in motor vehicles and suicide bombers, access to military bases, on road sectors used for the movement of patrols and convoys, in buildings and in their vicinity, in crowded areas.

Training also continues in Operational Theaters through a training module with American partners to train dogs to detect new types of explosives encountered in the conflict area and specifically to detect artillery explosives.

EOD (Explosive Ordnance Detecting)

An integral part of the Dacica Infantry Division 2 EOD Group, they are a relatively new element, teams equipped with explosive detection dogs - EODD (Explosive Ordnance Detecting Dogs) - were introduced into the EOD platoons since 2008.

Thus, for the soldiers who chose to be handlers, working with dogs comes as a task in addition to the EOD training. The name of the EOD specialization comes from the abbreviation of Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

Group 2 EOD is a structure dedicated to NATO, subordinated to the Command of the 1st Infantry Division „Dacica“, which has the mission to provide EOD support to the forces of the division in the area of responsibility entrusted both on national territory and in theaters of operations.

The 96th Genius Battalion, 2nd EOD Group, was established in 2005 with the overall mission to eliminate or reduce the dangers of unexploded conventional, chemical and biological ammunition and the improvised explosive devices that threaten personnel, objectives, materials, operations, actions and military activities.

On 01.11.2011, Group 2 EOD was subordinated to the 1st Infantry Division „Dacica“.

The subunit is made up of specialized forces with high operational, mobile, fast response and short response time to emergency situations, ready to meet the





COSTIN & LORD



ROBERTINO & BENNY



requirements for which they were established, endowed and prepared.

All EOD Group 2 soldiers attended various training courses for EOD operators and specialization in the country, and most of them abroad (USA, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany).


Annually, each EOD specialist, in relation to the function he/she occupies, participates in training and training conventions at the EOD Training Base, completed with tests for competency assessment and certification according to „Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel - Minimum Performance Standards for EOD Operators“.

Since its creation, Group 2 EOD has participated in a wide range of missions and activities. It assisted the EOD during the SUMMIT of the Francophonie in 2006 and during NATO SUMMIT in 2008.

It participated in two practical exercises in the „Post-Conflict Stabilization and Reconstruction Training Courses“ organized by the Ministry of Business External in 2010-2011 with participants from different states, training of EOD and C-IED of maneuvering battalions and detachments that were deployed in the Afghanistan Operations Theater, as well as of the soldiers who were selected to participate in UN missions peacekeeping in various post-conflict areas, demonstration exercises on visits of foreign military delegations or festive days.

Equally, Group 2 EOD soldiers have a very good experience

of fulfilling missions outside the national territory, participated in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan's theater of operations in the battalions of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, the 2 Mountain Vigor Brigade, the Brigade 1 Mechanized Argedava and 282 Mechanized Infantry Brigade, 2010-2013.

On the national territory, Group 2 EOD provided EOD support during Artillery and In-fantry Artillery Combat Arms, executed by the Military Units of the DACICA Infantry Division, and provided EOD support to Military Units of the Getica 2nd Infantry Division „And the 4th Infantry Division „Gemina“. 



Humanitarian announcement

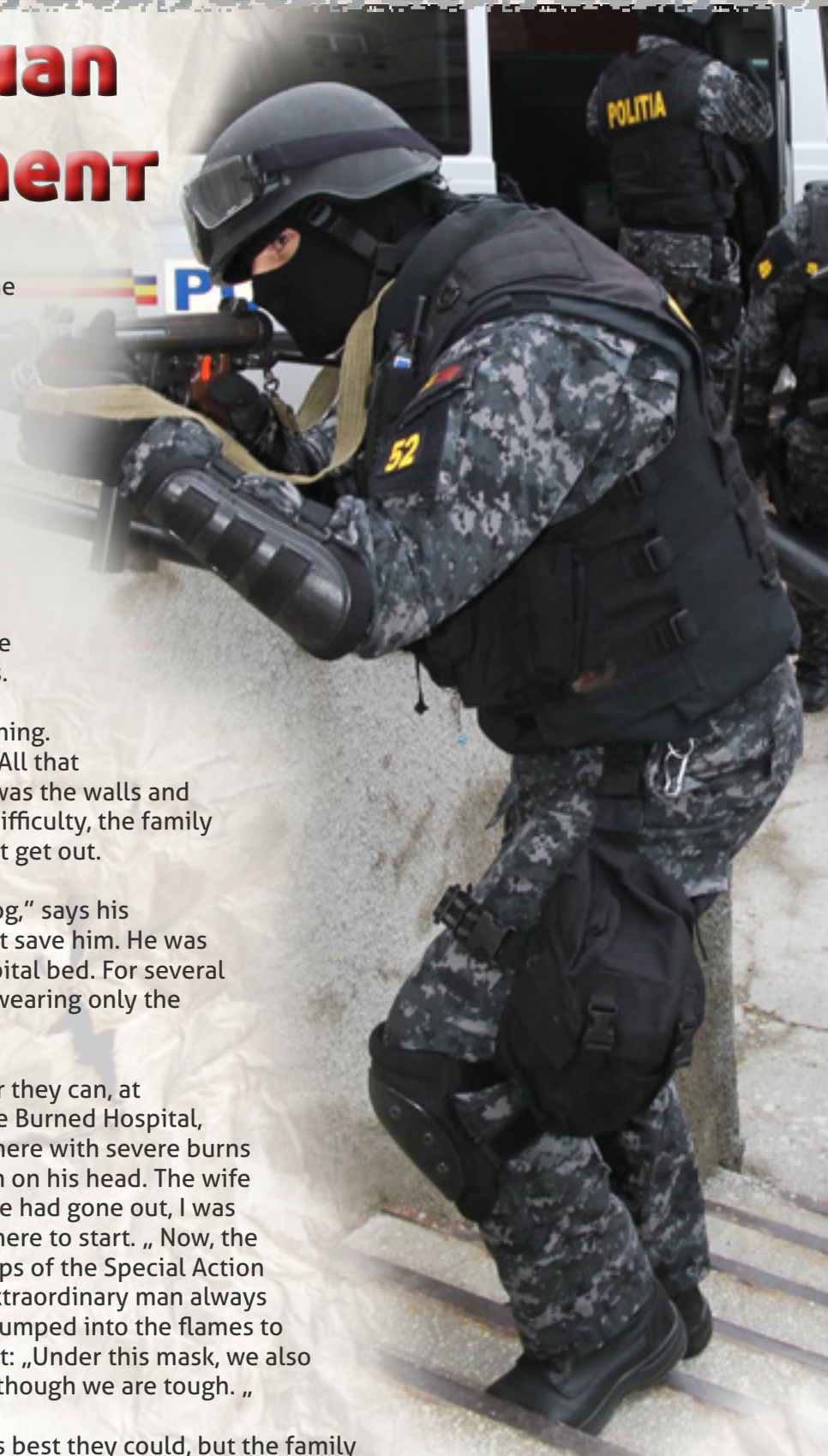
He was always in the front line. He never backed down in the face of danger. It is the story of a special forces fighter who went through the fire to save his own family. Now, from the hospital bed, he feels helpless. His wife and two daughters remained on the road, wearing only their clothes. Only with our help, of all of them, will they be able to go further. It is said that God does not give you more than you can carry, but sometimes the burden is so heavy that it brings you to your knees. This is what these people tell you every day who do not know where to find the strength to rise from the ashes.

One night, a cursed fire consumed everything. All their life's agony has turned to ashes. All that remained of the house where they lived was the walls and pieces of roof that are now falling. With difficulty, the family escaped the flames, but the puppy did not get out.

„He jumped into the flames to save his dog,“ says his colleague. „The dog died there, I could not save him. He was my partner „, says the man, from the hospital bed. For several weeks, the family remained on the road, wearing only the clothes worn on the fateful evening.

The wife and the two girls sleep wherever they can, at neighbors or relatives, and the man, at the Burned Hospital, where he is still hospitalized. He arrived here with severe burns all over his body. He even burned the skin on his head. The wife is also desperate: „When I saw that the fire had gone out, I was completely demoralized. I didn't know where to start. „ Now, the only support is the colleagues of the troops of the Special Action Service for Combating Crime: „He is an extraordinary man always helping the people around him; he even jumped into the flames to save his dog.“ Another colleague says that: „Under this mask, we also have families, we love, we feel, we cry. Although we are tough. „

Colleagues mobilized and helped them as best they could, but the family has to start from scratch and more support is needed for that. Those who want to help the family are expected in Gen. Candiano Popescu, no. 57-59 or at the headquarters of the Special Actions Service, from Borodesti street no. 3. Anything could mean enormously for the family so hard tried. Who can help the family is asked to contact Paraschiv Marinica and Preda Ionel, at the phone number 0758.225.409, with Wilhelm Bendris, at the phone number 0763.434.030, or at the number 0756.640.709! The money can be deposited in the bank account IBAN-RO40RZBR0000060009912200 holder Dumitru Niculaie at any Raiffeisen Bank branch in the country! Thank you



Black Sea Defense & Aerospace

Exhibition and International Conference dedicated to the Aeronautical Industry, Defense, National Security, Cyber Security and Private Security.

The Expo-Conference „Black Sea Defense and Aerospace - BSDA 2014“ will take place within the ROMAERO Baneasa Complex, between 14 and 16 May 2014 and is an event supported by the Romanian government through the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Administration and Interior, Ministry Foreign Affairs - ANCEX, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Justice - the National Authority of Penitentiaries and the Ministry of Interior, as well as the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI). BSDA 2014 is a business-to-business event, with the objective of ensuring a significant presence of specialist visitors, governmental, military and trade delegations from all countries with access to the Black Sea will be hosted. The presence of VIP delegations is the main goal of BSDA 2014.



Theme of the BSDA 2014 exhibition

Ground defense

Armored and unarmored vehicles
Command and control systems
Weapons and ammunition
Armor and defense systems
Aviation defense systems
Tank defense systems
Simulators and training systems

Air defense

Military aircraft, helicopters, UCAV, UAV
Weapons and guides
Missiles and weapons systems
Simulators and training systems
On-board equipment and airport infrastructure

Maritime defense

Sea-going vessels and coast guard vessels
Command and control systems
Naval armament systems
Navigation, sonar and radar systems
Rescue and survival systems
Port infrastructure systems
Simulators and training systems

National security

National defense systems
Secret service equipment and technologies
Emergency response equipment and technologies
Trucks, cars and special vehicles
Aircraft and helicopters for police, gendarmerie and rescue

Coastal technologies and systems
Technologies and equipment rescue, first aid and civil protection
Private and corporate security systems

Civil aviation

Civil aircraft
Business and corporate aviation
On-board equipment and radar systems
Maintenance and repair equipment and services
Airport infrastructure.

Conferences, presentations and round tables

On the occasion of the 5th edition, two new themes were introduced:
- cybersecurity
- security and safety of critical infrastructures



Location

The Black Sea Defense & Aerospace Expo-conference - BSDA 2014 will take place at Romaero, a Romanian company specializing in aircraft production and repair equipment (JAR 145 certified).

The Romaero complex is located in the northern part of Bucharest and has direct access to the runway of Baneasa International Airport (3,200 m long and 45 m wide).

Romaero has cranes and load handling equipment with capacities up to 300 tons. Baneasa International Airport (AIB), the second gateway to Romania, is located in the northern part of Bucharest, just 8 km from the center.

Address: Bld. Ficusului no. 44, 013975, Sector 1, Bucharest.

The staff of the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Ministry of Transport and the Romanian Intelligence Service have free access on the basis of uniform or ID.

Visitors under the age of 16 are not allowed on the 14th and 15th. On the 16th of May, access is allowed to all, after 12.00.

Visitors can also register online



BSDA 2014 is the largest international exhibition of defense, national security, cyber and aeronautical security in Southeast Europe and a meeting place for Black Sea countries with companies from around the world for industrial collaboration, especially in the new geo context -political.

The United States Department

of Defense (U.S. DoD) has announced the list of approved exhibitions for fiscal year 2014. Only 6 exhibitions have been approved in Europe, these are: The Farnborough Air Show (U.K.); The Berlin Air Show and ITEC (Germany), Eurosatory and Euronaval (France), and Black Sea Defense & Aerospace - BSDA 2014 (Bucharest, Romania).



ROMANIA - NATO

THE FIRST TEN YEARS



Photo Catalin Ovreiu

10 years ago, on the 29th of March, 2004, Romania became a full member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO), which is considered one of the greatest successes of Romanian politics from 1989 to the present.

The integration in the North Atlantic structure was a long process, whose constant was the wide support of the Romanian people, for which the quality of member of the Alliance is equivalent to the guarantee of security and external stability. An active role of Romania in NATO is an essential condition for promoting national interests at the inter-allied level and integrating Romania's security concerns into the decision-making process of the North Atlantic Alliance.

Romania officially submitted its candidacy to NATO in

1993 and, a year later, was the first state to respond to the invitation to participate in the Partnership for Peace (PfP), thus becoming the first state in Central and Eastern Europe to join the PfP.

In April 1999, NATO launched the Membership Action Plan (MAP). Based on this, Romania prepared its own National Preparation Plan for Accession (NAP), which set objectives, measures and deadlines for accession to the Alliance.

At the NATO Summit in Prague on the 21st of November, 2002, based on an assessment of the progress made by the candidate countries, the Heads of State and Government of the NATO member countries decided to invite Romania, along with six other states - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania,

Slovakia and Slovenia, to start talks on joining the North Atlantic Alliance.

The NATO accession protocols for Romania and the other six states invited to join were signed during a ceremony held in Brussels on the 26th of March, 2003.

On the 29th of March, 2004, Romania joined NATO by depositing its instruments of ratification with the US State Department, the depositary state of the North Atlantic Alliance Treaty.

The deposit of the instruments of ratification was followed, on the 2nd of April, 2004, by the ceremony of the official hoisting of the Romanian flag at the NATO headquarters. Thus, starting with 2005, „NATO Day” is celebrated in Romania on the first Sunday of April.

Endowment with military equipment

Compliance with Romania's commitments as a NATO member state requires the Ministry of National Defense to achieve the military capabilities established by the Force's Objectives, as well as to prepare and make available to the Alliance the capabilities for the NATO Response Force (NRF).

Based on the principle of the „single package of forces and capabilities”, Romania, like other allies, has developed and maintained a single set of forces and capabilities, both for participation in the full spectrum of Alliance missions, including collective defense, and for contributions to EU-led operations. During the period since integration, a series of endowment programs have been carried out, or are being carried out, of which the most relevant are:

- tank modernization;
- modernization of the Infantry Fighting Machine (MLI);
- acquisition of the 8x8 Armored Troops Carrier 8x8 (TBT);
- modernization of the Communications and Informatics System of the Romanian Army (SCIAR);
- purchase of frigates;
- acquisition and modernization of naval helicopters;
- National Air Command and Control System (SCCAN);
- Integrated Maritime Border Surveillance System (SCOMAR);
- short medium courier plane.

The strategic program „Multi-role aircraft of the Air Force” - approved by the Supreme Council of National Defense, provides for the realization, in the first phase, of an initial air capability and later, gradually, of the final



Appearance during the „Black Wolves” mission of the 151st Infantry Battalion, (Petrica Mihalache)



Appearance during the „Black Wolves” mission of the 151st Infantry Battalion, (Petrica Mihalache)



Aspect during the military mission of the 812th Infantry Battalion „Carpathian Falcons” photo Dan Boban

capability with 5th generation aircraft, F-35 JSF, going through a transition period provided with F-16 aircraft from the surplus of other states.

Participation in capacity development initiatives

In essence, in the 10 years, prior to the emergence of the Smart Defense concept (before 2010),

the Romanian Army assumed participation in six programs / projects:

- Allied Ground Surveillance (AGS);
- NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force (NAEW & C);
- NATO Air Command and Control System (ACCS);
- Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD);

- Deployable Communications Module (DCM E);
- Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC).

Operations and missions

The missions of the Romanian Army within the Alliance represented a natural continuation of those in which our country took part as a PfP member, and the benefits consisted in integrating and achieving increased interoperability, as experience gained and modernization programs.

The participation of the Romanian Army in missions and operations abroad can be divided into four stages:

- *stage I - preliminary to PfP, started in 1991 and continued until January 1994, when Romania signed the Partnership for Peace Program;*
- *stage II - participation in the Partnership for Peace - until the early 2000s;*
- *the third stage - of pre-accession to NATO - includes the years 2000–2004, until the moment of Romania's integration in the Alliance;*
- *stage IV - from the moment of Romania's full integration to the North Atlantic Alliance.*

So far, Romania has participated in peacekeeping missions with almost 40,000 soldiers (observers, staff officers, liaison officers, military police, combat units and subunits, field hospitals) ranking first among states. Member States contributing to operations, as follows:

➤ Afghanistan

- Afghanistan has always been the main area of interest and also the biggest effort in a theater of operations, with almost 2,000 troops deployed at the peak of



Along with the Afghan population - photo: Florin Agavriiloaei, 300th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, March 2008



In January, the 26th Infantry Battalion returns to Afghanistan after a period of 8 years. If in 2002 the battalion's soldiers were deployed in Kandahar, in 2011 they would carry out missions in the Qalat / Zabul area. Photo: Sorin Constantinescu



participation. About 1,200 troops are currently deployed in Afghanistan. About 24,000 soldiers have participated in missions in Afghanistan since 2002.

- ISAF's mission, in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is to carry out Counter-Insurgency operations, with a focus on protecting the civilian population, supporting the development of Afghan National Security Forces and local authorities, to ensure the protection of the Afghan people, a stable security environment, and sustainable development. Thus, as the importance of ISAF has increased, most forces have been concentrated, since August 2006, in the highly volatile area of southern Afghanistan, in the province of Zabul.
- An important contribution was represented by the assurance by the Romanian Air Force of the command of the International Airport in Kabul (KAIA), between April 2011 and April 2012, in two rotations of six months each, with 75 service personnel rotation.
- In 2011, the peak of participation was reached. The Romanian Army deployed two maneuvering battalions in the province of Zabul and other elements of the device, totaling about 1,800 soldiers and the management of Kabul International Airport for a period of one year (about 150 soldiers).
- A number of 30 battalions and about 25,000 soldiers participated in missions in Afghanistan, in six-month rotations, battalion-level

Aspect during the military mission of the 812th Infantry Battalion "Carpathian Falcons" photo Dan Boban



Carpathian Eagles on mission - photo: Eugen Mihai, 30th Mountain Hunters Battalion, October 2008



Afghanistan 2014
The presence of the Romanian Army soldiers in the peacekeeping missions in TO Afghanistan is ensured this year by the 20th Infantry Battalion "Black Scorpions".



force structures, platoon, and staff.

- This year, for the future NATO mission in Afghanistan, Resolute Support, Romania will continue to contribute with instructors and other forces, according to the requirements of the Alliance and national policy decisions.

➤ Iraq

- Romania had a presence for over six years, from the 19th of March 2003 to the 23rd of July, 2009, when the mission was successfully completed. Simultaneously with the consistent contribution of forces to the mission of the IRAQI FREEDOM Coalition,

the Army also participated with instructors in the second mission of this theater of operations, that of NATO training in IRAQ (NTM-I), between January 2005 and November 2011. During 2003-2009, almost 10,000 soldiers performed missions in this theater of operations.

➤ Western Balkans

- The Romanian Army has participated in missions both in Bosnia and Herzegovina, since March 1996, and in the province of Kosovo, since March 2000, given that stability in the Western Balkans is of major importance for our country.
- Currently, Romania participates in the KFOR mission with 68 soldiers, including staff and intelligence elements, as well as with a maneuvering company (128 soldiers) within the SACEUR Strategic Reserve, which can be deployed to order exclusively in Kosovo area of operations.
- NATO Air Police for the Baltic countries - between August and October 2007, four MIG 21 LANCER aircraft participated in the NATO Air Police mission for the Baltic countries „BALTICA 07”.
- Operation Active Endeavor - Romania participated every year, since 2005, with a Type 22 frigate, in Operation Active Endeavor in the Mediterranean Sea and, for three months, in 2011, in the NATO embargo operation on LIBYA (Unified Protector).
- Operation Active Fence - Romania participated, between April and July 2013, in the NATO Active Fence operation in Turkey with 11 soldiers from the Dislocable CIS Module who provided



Aspect during the mission executed by the soldiers of the 812nd Infantry Battalion, Photo by Marius Mihai



Aspect during the ANA training VIII mission: The Afghan military learns to use the tank Photo by Mihai Hodoroaba



Appearance during the mission executed by the soldiers of the 812nd Infantry Battalion Photo by Catalin Ovreiu

communications support to the American air defense units.

Exerciții

The operational framework for the assessment of the structures that completed the operationalization

was ensured by organizing joint national operational level exercises, such as DEMEX 05, ROMEX 06, ROUEX 07, ROUEX 08 and ROUEX 09.

In addition to the operationalized force assessment exercises made available to NATO, exercises and

applications were systematically planned and carried out:

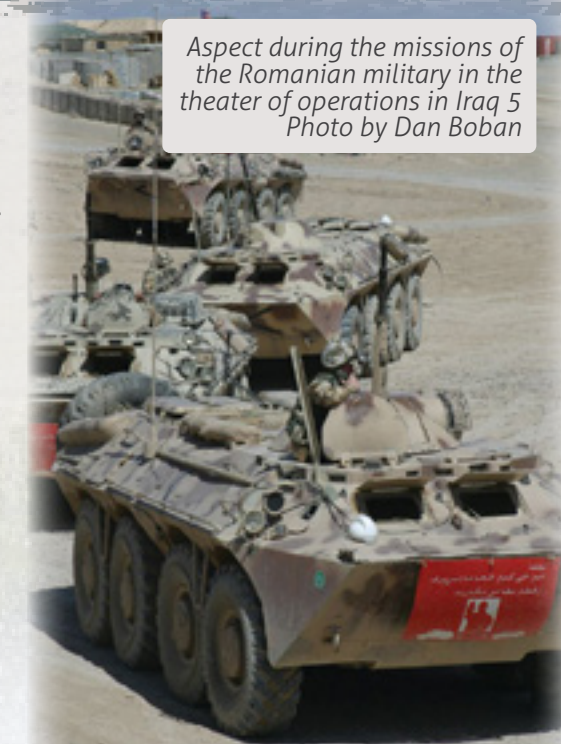
- national exercises of strategic level, with the participation of the operative and tactical levels - command exercises, of strategic level, combined with the execution of shooting in the polygon at tactical level, based on a semi-fictitious scenario, adequate to fulfill the training objectives of the participants;
- participation in NATO crisis management exercises, type CMX - politico-military exercises designed to test concepts of current and emerging crisis management, strategic arrangements and procedures and the implementation of new strategic concepts, policy directives and regular testing of how to apply comprehensive civilian-military approach;
- NATO STEADFAST type exercises - organized since 2006 for the purpose of joint evaluation, certification and validation of the structures in the composition of the NATO Response Force (NRF);
- NATO „ABLE STAFF” exercises - annual command exercises, at expert level, in the field of application of nuclear consultation procedures.

For Romania, an important objective was to increase the degree of interoperability with NATO member countries, thus organizing numerous bilateral and multinational exercises with NATO member states::

- BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE - complex of training activities, exercises and courses carried out periodically, focused mainly on training and improving the training of ground forces units, which takes place over a

period of 12 months, in order to increase interoperability between Romanian and American forces;

- SABER GUARDIAN - computer-assisted, battalion-level command exercise with company-level and brigade-level response cells, which contributed to increasing interoperability within NATO, developing the partnership with the USA and strengthening regional bilateral relations and strategic partnerships;
- RAMSTEIN GUARD - was planned and executed for the training and verification of forces and means in air defense systems, especially



Aspect during the missions of the Romanian military in the theater of operations in Iraq 5 Photo by Dan Boban



Afghanistan 2013

Appearance during the mission of the 812nd Infantry Battalion photo Dan Boban



structures participating in NATO's integrated air defense (NATINADS), in conducting combat actions in a hostile electromagnetic environment;

- BLUE DANUBE - annual training exercise in real conditions for training the forces and means of the Romanian Air Police. Both aircraft and the personnel necessary for their operation and service participate in the exercise;
- BLUE BRIDGE - real-time training exercise conducted annually jointly by the Romanian and Bulgarian Air Forces in order to achieve better coordination and interoperability for the application of air police procedures in case of a suspicious flight near the common border;
- THRACIAN STAR - Air Police exercise conducted by the Air Force of the participating states to raise the level of training in an international environment, develop cooperation, and improve interoperability between the armies of NATO countries.

Hosting high visibility events

During this period of 10 years as a member of NATO, Romania has ensured a series of high visibility events within NATO, among which we mention:

Informal meeting of defense ministers from NATO member countries, held in Poiana Brasov in 2004;

NATO Summit in Bucharest, April 2-4, 2008 - the largest political event of the year and the most important ever organized in Romania;

NATO Military Committee Conference, September 2012, Sibiu, organized with the support of local and central public and administrative authorities.

Appearance during the mission executed by the soldiers of the 33rd Mountain Hunters Battalion
Photo by Catalin Ovreiu



300th Infantry Battalion "St. Andrei" returns to Afghanistan for the third time. Also, the 280th Infantry Battalions and 33 Mountain Hunters resume their missions in this area of operations.

Afghanistan 2005
The beginning of 2005 meant for the soldiers of the 300th Infantry Battalion from Galati the beginning of their first mission on Afghan soil, which they taught, in the summer of the same year, to the "Black Wolves" from the 151st Infantry Battalion, from Iasi. Also in 2005, the 26th Infantry Battalion, located in the ISAF Strategic Reserve, was given the mission to ensure a normal climate for the August-November elections.
Photo by Cristina Iacobuț



A Check Point in cooperation with the Afghans - photo: Cornelia Popa, 280th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, August 2009



Romania has been an active presence in the Western Balkans since 1995, when it deployed a genius battalion in the area within the NATO-IFOR mission.



Kosovo - active involvement since March 2000
Photo by Dan Boban



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.

JOINT RISK MANAGEMENT 2014



On the 7th of April, 2014, in the city of Zimnicea, Teleorman County, the Romanian-Bulgarian cooperation exercise „Joint Risk Management - 2014” has started.

Text & photo IGSU

It took place throughout the week and represents the last stage of the project „Joint Risk Monitoring during Emergencies in the Danube Area Border”, funded by the Cross-Border Cooperation Program Romania - Bulgaria 2007-2013, being intended for practical testing of tools to facilitate and regulate bilateral cross-border emergency cooperation and disaster response operations.

According to the scenario, on 07.04.2014, at 15:40, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 on the Richter scale occurred at a depth of 10 km, in the Gorna Oryahovitsa area. Due to this earthquake, there was significant damage over a radius of about 100 km², among the severely affected localities being Svishtov.

In accordance with the Joint Procedure for Monitoring and Notification of Cross-Border Emergencies, the Bulgarian Directorate General of Fire and Civil Protection (DGPPC) sent a notification to the Inspectorate

General for Emergency Situations (IGSU) informing about the occurrence of the event, the general data of the emergency situation, the affected areas, the measures and actions that have been imposed and an estimate of the damages caused.

The DGPPC considered that the structures in the districts bordering the Danube were outdated, as the intervention resources were insufficient for an adequate response in Svishtov Municipality, being necessary to activate the Joint Intervention Plan and send to IGSU the request for support with forces and means necessary to extinguish fires, decontamination of personnel, equipment and land, respectively water supply.

Considering the situation created, at the IGSU level, the decision was made to send an intervention detachment from Romania, which will leave the city of Zimnicea, during tomorrow, the 8th of April a.c., at 11:30, to Svishtov.

Day two - Departure of the Romanian detachment to the Republic of Bulgaria

As it was found that the structures in the districts bordering the Danube River were outdated, especially in the municipality of Svishtov, where the highest losses were recorded, including the occurrence of dangerous chemical incidents in industrial facilities in the area, as well as numerous fires, DGPPC the decision was taken to activate the Joint Intervention Plan and to send to IGSU, on the 8th of April this year, at 07.00, the request for support with forces and means for the specific missions of firefighting, personnel, technical and field decontamination, respectively water supply.

At the level of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, the decision was made to send in support to Svishtov, starting with 08.04.2013, at 11.30, from



the town of Zimnicea, through the Border Crossing Point, with the ferry, an intervention detachment consisting of 27 firefighters, with 6 means of intervention, as follows: two trucks with water and foam from Teleorman and Olt counties, a personal decontamination truck from Dolj county, a technical decontamination truck from Calarasi county and two trucks for operative work.

During the day, between 13.00 and 13.30, the representatives of the Svishtov Fire Department will hold a briefing on the operational situation on the arrival of the Romanian intervention forces, and the commander of the Romanian detachment will immediately inform the participation of military firefighters in response, in cooperation with specialized structures in the Republic of Bulgaria, in order to limit the effects of emergencies.

Between April 8 and 9, this year, the intervention structures in our country participated in firefighting, personal decontamination, technical decontamination and water supply missions, in 5 sectors (locations), arranged on the Svilozia Industrial Platform (near the municipality Svishtov).

Day Four - Managing Earthquake Emergencies

The joint Romanian-Bulgarian exercise continued by simulating the occurrence of an earthquake in Romania, in the afternoon of

yesterday, the 9th of April this year, having its epicenter in the Vrancea area, with a magnitude of 7.2 on the Richter scale, at a depth of 147 km, being affected several localities, including the city of Zimnicea.

Shortly after the event, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) decided to withdraw the Romanian intervention detachment that was carrying out missions on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Considering the existing operative situation, at IGSU level the decision was taken to activate the Joint Intervention Plan and send the request for support to the General Directorate of Fire and Civil Protection, to participate



with specific forces and means to limit the effects of the earthquake in Zimnicea.

During the 10th of April, several simulations of some emergency situations generated by the occurrence of an earthquake took place, being tested the response of the structures involved in the management of interventions in fires, chemical accidents, those in the aquatic environment, as well as the decision-making process in such situations.

In the field activities, over 450 personnel with 58 different technical means acted in this exercise.

Among the rescuers and the intervention teams from Romania, there was also an intervention detachment from the Republic of Bulgaria, consisting of 16 firefighters with technical means of firefighting, water supply at the intervention, and a HAZMAT laboratory - chemical research, sampling, area analysis and marking.

During the 11th of April, the activities continued with urban search-rescue, pyrotechnic rehabilitation, chemical incident, search-rescue in contaminated environment, firefighting, release, rescue from height, evacuation

and emergency medical assistance.

The joint Romanian-Bulgarian exercise „JRM - 2014” was the last stage of the strategic project „Joint Risk Monitoring during Emergencies in the Danube Area Border”, funded by the Cross-Border Cooperation Program Romania - Bulgaria 2007-2013, being intended for practical testing of instruments to facilitate and regulate cross-border bilateral cooperation in emergency situations and disaster response operations.

During the field application, action was taken according to the Joint Intervention Plan in the areas of competence of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and the Directorate General of Fire and Civil Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria and associated procedures. Furthermore, managing the consequences of an earthquake in the cross-border area offered participants the opportunity to test their response capabilities in managing interventions in fires, chemical accidents, those in the aquatic environment, urban search-rescue and contaminated environment, pyrotechnic sanitation, release,



rescue at height, evacuation and emergency medical care, as well as the decision-making process in such situations.

The total forces involved in this event exceeded 450 people, using over 60 different technical means of intervention from ten subordinate units of IGSU. Among them was an intervention detachment from the neighboring country, consisting of 16 firefighters and 4 technical means of intervention.

Throughout the exercise, the rescuers were deployed in a base of operations, like a real situation.

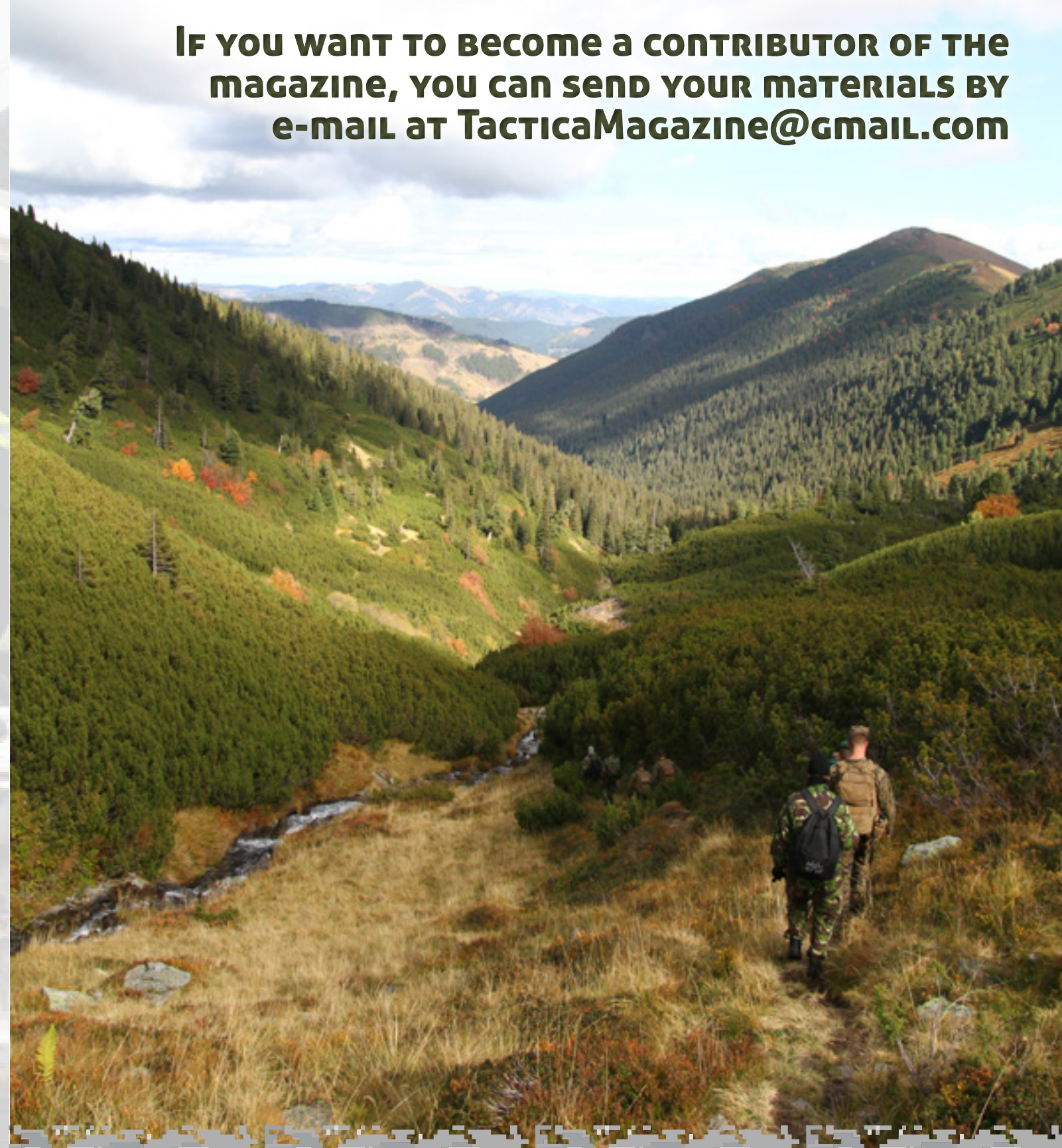
The evaluation concluded that the exercise met its objectives, both Romanian and Bulgarian firefighters acting according to the Joint Response Plan in the Danube and associated procedures, developing working skills and harmonizing the training of intervention structures.

Such exercises will be organized every three years to respond to the challenges posed by the nature factor, both in effective cooperation with forces coming to support, from abroad and if we are asked to provide international support.



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The US is sending a warship to the Black Sea in the midst of the crisis in Ukraine



USS Donald Cook si ancorata in portul Rota pe 11 februarie, de unde va functiona ca o platforma anti-racheta si va lua parte la alte sarcini, cum ar fi securitatea maritima si implementarea NATO. (Getty Images)

From Defence News

WASHINGTON - The United States is sending a guided missile destroyer to the Black Sea in order to reassure European allies in the region following Russia's annexation of Crimea, they confirmed Monday.

„We decided to send a ship to the Black Sea. We expect it to arrive there in a week, „said Pentagon spokesman Colonel Steven Warren, without revealing the name or type of the ship, citing „operational security”.

A Defense Department official confirmed to AFP that the warship sent to the region is the USS Donald Cook, a guided missile destroyer.

The ship was recently upgraded to launch SM-3 missiles, allowing the ship to operate as part of the Aegis ballistic missile defense system. The ship was sent to the Spanish naval base in Rota in

order to serve as part of NATO's proposed missile shield.

NATO insists that the missile shield is a purely defensive system designed to counter

potential missile threats from nations such as Iran. However, it has long been a source of tension between NATO and Russia, which sees the project as a threat to its own security.

Warren insisted the deployment of the USS Donald Cook has only the role of reassuring regional allies. „The goal is primarily to reassure our allies and partners in the region that we are committed to in the region,” he said. „We are still in the planning stage of the details of our operations in the Black Sea, but we are thinking of stops in ports and exercises with other countries on the Black Sea.” However, none of the exercises will take place in Ukrainian ports, according to Warren.

Another American destroyer, the USS Truxtun, was sent to the Black Sea when the crisis between Ukraine and Russia began, but left the region on the 21st of March.



US Navy Cmdr. Andrew Biehn, ofiterul comandant al USS Truxtun, si Cmd. Andrew Bates, ofiterul executiv al distrugatorului de rachete ghidate, saluta fregata romaneasca ROS Regina Maria la bordul Truxtun in Marea Neagra, la 12 martie 2014. Truxtun a plecat din Marea Neagra pe 21 martie 2014, dupa exercitii cu fortele navale din Bulgaria si Romania. SCOTT BARNES / S.U.A. MARINA

NATO Day at the Ministry of National Defense



On the occasion of the celebration of the North Atlantic Alliance Day, on Sunday, the 6th of April, at 09.00, at the headquarters of the Ministry of National Defense, a military ceremony took place in the presence of the Minister of National Defense, Mircea Dusa. Also, an Open Doors Day event was organized, the public having access to the institution between 08.30 and 13.00. The event was attended by Mircea Geoana and Defense Minister Mircea Dusa, who was promoted to the rank of several military personnel were promoted. After the military ceremony, there was a visit to the indoor stands and the outdoor technical exhibition.



Fire to a storage space in Tei Lake neighborhood



text & photo: ISU Bucuresti



The fire was widespread throughout the entire building; extinguishing it and protecting the neighborhood involved 13 fire trucks with water and foam, 6 tankers, 2 escalators, 3 motor pumps, and 3 crews of firefighters-SMURD.



Bucharest firefighters intervened to extinguish a large fire developed on an area of 4,000 square meters at a Gf + 2 building in the Lacul Tei neighborhood.



The fire was spent two hours later, with no casualties.



We managed to protect a club with an area of 1,000 square meters attached to it. Various construction materials, furniture, textiles and plastics were stored in the burning building.



Romanian Police Day



text & photo: Marcella Dragan

The Romanian Police Day was celebrated on Tuesday, the 25th of March in the University Square in Bucharest, where the Romanian police officers showed some of the secrets of their daily work, but also the endowments they have in carrying out their missions.

In the pedestrian area of the University Square, were presented exhibition stands with state-of-the-art equipment, used in police activity, and of the intervention troops, as well as the other equipment of the police units. Also was organized an exhibition of weapons and costumes of the Service Independent for Special Interventions and Actions.

Those present were able to see the special vehicles, motorcycles and tricycles used by the traffic police, and vintage cars used by

the Romanian Police.

The Pyrotechnic Service of the S.I.I.A.S. - I.G.P.R. presented the „pyrotechnic robot”, a high-performance device for detecting explosives and defusing bombs.

The state-of-the-art mobile laboratory used by the National Institute of Forensics to conduct research at the crime scene could also be seen. The forensic police officers explained to those interested how the mobile laboratory performs multiple functions and allows the discovery and collection of fingerprints or other types of traces and the creation of robot portraits.

Mixed teams, consisting of a police officer and a dog, carried out various demonstrations of patrolling, catching and

immobilizing criminals or defending against surprise attack.

A boat used by the police of the Transport Police Directorate was exhibited, along with the other technical means of the Romanian Police.

The Directorate of Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Substances exhibited the mobile laboratory for the identification of toxic substances and for nuclear, bacteriological and chemical decontamination.

Throughout the demonstrations, the policemen distributed leaflets with prevention materials and information about the campaigns carried out by the Romanian Police to combat and prevent crime. The „Vasile Lascar” Campina School of Police Officers presented the educational offer

to young people who want to embrace the career of a police officer.

Romanian Police Day celebrated by the Capital Police

The Capital Police celebrated the Romanian Police Day in Herastrau Park in Bucharest, where the police received guests, talked, provided information, took photos, informed, played with the little ones, meaning they were good hosts. In the stands specially arranged for the public to be with them during this festive moment, the police officers presented the latest generation technique used in the activity of the Police.

A great attraction was offered by the Pyrotechnic Service of the Capital Police, was the „pyrotechnic robot”, a high-performance device for detecting explosives and neutralizing bombs. The device, which has the duty to reach suspicious packages guided remotely with the help of a special remote control, today was played with the little ones, but also with the big ones.

The Canine Service of the Capital Police was present as always, performing, with the mixed K9 teams, various demonstrations





of patrolling, catching and immobilizing criminals or defending against surprise attack.

The little ones were also the favorites of the traffic police, who exhibited the vehicles they use in missions and who allowed the little guests to „drive” cars and motorcycles.

The older visitors were not ignored either, as they could admire and „try” some of the police’s weapons. An attraction was the demonstrations of the Special Actions Service within the Capital Police, in which the fighters showed methods of defense in case of attacks with knives.



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The Romanian-American bilateral exercise „Dacian Viper 2014”



photo: Fortele Aeriene Romane

Over 200 Romanian soldiers, pilots and technical personnel, with MiG-21 LanceR aircraft from the 71st Air Base and approximately 250 soldiers of the United States Air Force, with F-16 aircraft, participate, between April 10-17, at the Romanian-American bilateral exercise „Dacian Viper 2014”, which will take place on the military aerodrome from Campia Turzii.

The main objective of the exercise is to raise the level of training by training in a multinational environment, develop cooperation and improve interoperability between the armies of some NATO member countries, and practice techniques, tactics and procedures jointly with the American partner.

„Dacian Viper”, which is in its fourth edition, also took place at the 71st Air Base at Campia Turzii in 2006, 2008 and 2012, with the



main objective of joint training of pilots, technical staff, air traffic controllers and officers in real conditions, for the planning and execution of flight missions in mixed formations and mixed Romanian-American crews.

The exercise was planned one year before the deployment and is included in the plan with the main activities of the Air Force Staff.



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Afghanistan 2002
Photo by Catalin Ovreiu



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