

#08

# TACTICA

magazine

## READING THE FIRE WITH VATRA DORNEI'S FIREFIGHTERS

30<sup>TH</sup> GUARDS REGIMENT  
MIHAI VITEAZUL

SPECIAL INTERVENTION  
STRUCTURES COMPETITION

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*Words of gratitude*

It's the end of the year and many of us are now taking stock of everything. If I were to follow their example, I wouldn't know where to start. And nowhere to end. A lot of wonderful people have gathered in one year, who dedicate themselves every day to the country and do not ask too much, because that is their job, their mission. He enjoys every appreciation that the public, we civilians, show. It gives them strength, courage, new strength, helps them move forward.

And I allow myself to share a little secret with you. Try to forget about problems, the weather outside, the crowds or traffic and join the military, police, firefighters, gendarmes when they invite you to be with them on national holidays, gun days or other important events for each unit. You, the public, reward their effort in tens or hundreds of hours of training so that every event is perfect. You will find, in many of the materials in the magazine, answers such as "people's appreciation", "applause", "smiles of the little ones" given by these people when asked about the satisfaction of the work they do. You will also find these words in the material dedicated to the 30th Guards Regiment.

The same words of thanks, received this time from the people they helped, give strength to the firefighters, such as those from Vatra Dornei, with whom I discovered the secrets of fire.

And also from the heart of Bucovina, I went with the Dornen mountain troops running to Bistrita, passed the Tihuta Pass, and handed over the Stele relay for Veterans to the Transylvanian military to carry it on, to Alba Iulia, to the Great Union. An effort made by the soldiers not for them, but for their colleagues wounded in missions, an effort that you can also support by following the Invictus group.

Other words of thanks I bring to you, to those who read the Tactica Magazine, because you are with me and for your encouragement.

I wish you a Happy Holidays, a year 2015 full of accomplishments on all levels, health and joy with your loved ones!

Happy New Year!

Marcella Dragan





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## The PROTOTYPE OF THE 8x8 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER WAS TESTED

Maior Ion Adrian CURIMAN  
Revista Fortelor Terestre

„The Research Agency for Military Technology and Technologies (ACTTM) has contributed to the research and testing of equipment, the design of the protection part and the positioning of the seats. Based on the information gathered from the latest tests, the positioning of the other equipment inside will be generated, so that the influence on the personnel in the carrier will be minimal”, said the ACTTM commander, Colonel Liviu Cosereanu. „We want the results obtained by computer simulation to be reflected in practice. From our experience so far, this has happened with every previous test.”

Testing of the prototype of the 8x8 armored amphibious carrier at the explosion of a load equivalent to 8 kg TNT

The 8 x 8 TBT program represents a partnership between the Ministry of National Defense, represented by ACTTM and CN Romarm SA, represented by the Moreni Mechanical Plant, which is carried out based on GD 395/2011.

The 8 x 8 armored personnel carrier must provide increased mobility on the asphalt or paved roads, in the field and on the water. It must also ensure the protection of troops against shrapnel, infantry bullet bullets and the effects of CBRN weapons. It must be possible to embark and disembark the crew quickly, including on the move. Last but not least, the carrier must provide the firepower needed to engage in combat against enemy personnel and to hit low-flying aerial targets.

Within this program, several stages of prototyping and testing have been completed so far, and the results on bullet and mine protection, according to NATO standards (STANAG 4569), are the following:

- TBT 8 x 8 ensures level 2 KE of bullet protection (without equipment with additional armor);
- TBT 8 x 8 provides level 3 KE bullet protection (equipped with additional armor);
- TBT 8 x 8 provides level 3A (under the wheel) and 3B (under the chassis) of protection for me, in terms of resistance to shock waves and splinters.



On Wednesday, November 26, the prototype of the 8 x 8 armored personnel carrier (TBT 8 x 8) was tested in the Jegalia Polygon in order to establish the functionality of the seats and the seat belt system when a mine exploded (equivalent to 8 kg of TNT), as well as the dynamics of the man inside the vehicle.

Depending on the results obtained from this test and the financial support for the successful completion of the program, any corrections will be made, and until approval, the next steps will cover the drive-line (engine, gearbox, axles, etc.) and the armament system. Operational testing with troops will be the last step.

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# Reading the FIRE

## WITH Vatra Dornei's FIREFIGHTERS



*I have, like any person, a normal fear of fire, so the idea of entering a closed room where a fire is burning raised my pulse. It was an experience that made me respect more the work the firefighters do and understand the effort and risks assumed each day by these people so they can be better prepared when they are needed.*

*text & photo: Marcella Dragan*



Those who welcomed me into their team and taught me the secrets of fire were the firefighters from Vatra Dornei Fire Department, whom I accompanied during their everyday training.

The day started with a preparatory technical meeting, a daily routine which aims to show to all the personnel of the subunit exactly how a fire manifests itself, the phases it goes through, from the initiation phase to the widespread burning and all the other phenomena occurring

during the fire. The information is used primarily for the firefighters' personal protection and to better fight the fire. The theoretical part is followed by the practical study conducted in the fire study room, where the entire evolution of a fire is recreated, from initiation to regression.

Together with the team that I accompanied during the day, I attended the technical meeting, where the plan of the fire study room was presented. The locations of the materials to be burned were presented, also the places of each firefighter or, in my case, journalist. One at a time, the place, role, and actions of each serviceman were explained, and also of those offering support, like secondary teams and SMURD (paramedics). Given the fact that several objects were placed at different distances from the fire, so we can see all the phenomena occurring during the fire, their places were also marked.

Once the presentation of all the objects and personnel inside the fire study room was concluded, the explanation of the rules to be followed by all the participants at the exercise started. As I saw later on the field, only one person gives the commands during the training session, the leader on the training session. Everyone has to listen to him and no one on the field commands over him. Were explained to me the commands used during the exercise, how to move inside the fire study room, the communication methods between the members of the team, and how to react to different situations, different types of teams participating in the intervention and the evolution stages on the fire, that we were to encounter in the fire room.







also known as angels of fire. At around 400° C temperature, the gases from the pyrolysis arose and start lighting up and I could see on the ceiling as tongues of fire appeared. The flames grew in intensity and began to unite, to blend together, coming up above us, appearing in the form of waves of fire, a phenomenon known as rollover, and a stage of a fire that firefighters were studying very carefully.



This is the last step before the most dangerous phenomenon



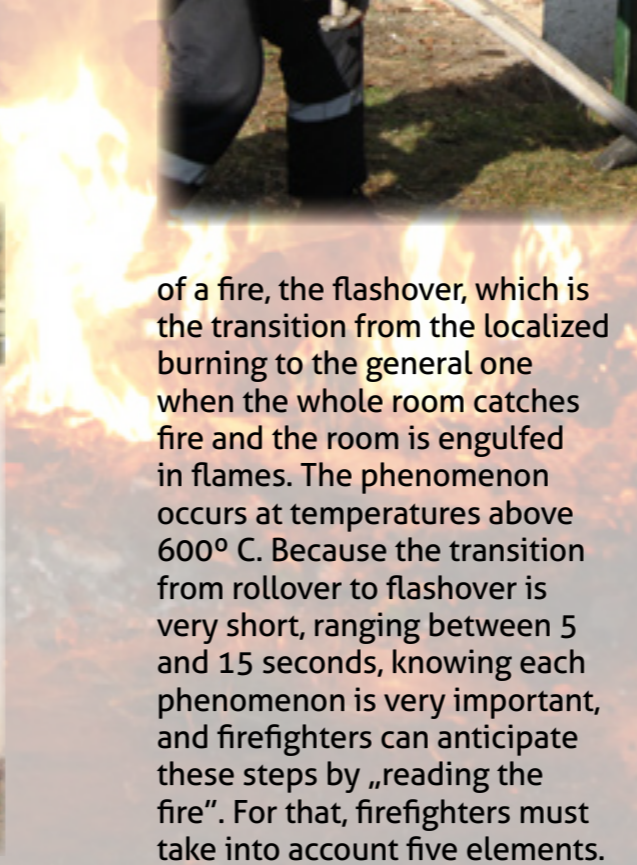
After completing the theoretical part, we started the practical part, which for me began with donning the protective suit and the rest of the equipment consisting of a mask and oxygen tube and helmet. Once in the fire room, I could see all the stages that were presented to me in the theoretical session. After initiating the fire, the next step that I could see was vaporization that occurs at around 100° C, when water contained in any material vaporizes. I could see after that

the layering the smoke, which, from the top of the room, started to descend, arranging itself in layers and stabilizing at the height of 80 cm from the ground, called the neutral zone, where the best visibility is.

Pyrolysis or decomposition of the material into gas was the next phenomenon that I have seen, which occurs around the temperature of 2000 C when the materials break down into gases. These gases create the next phenomenon, flame over,



The first thing the firefighters notice when they arrive at a fire is the smoke, by its color they can know how much it's loaded with unburned gas, of pyrolysis, which provides information about the amount of fuel inside the fire and the degree of risk to which the firefighters expose themselves. Another thing the firefighters learn to read is the color of the fire, indicating the level of oxygen and temperature of the fire. They also look after the number of openings (windows, doors) and their location, and the firefighters will try



of a fire, the flashover, which is the transition from the localized burning to the general one when the whole room catches fire and the room is engulfed in flames. The phenomenon occurs at temperatures above 600° C. Because the transition from rollover to flashover is very short, ranging between 5 and 15 seconds, knowing each phenomenon is very important, and firefighters can anticipate these steps by „reading the fire“. For that, firefighters must take into account five elements.





not to create new openings during the intervention to don't supply the fire with oxygen. Another element to consider is the heat, which can be determined according to the fire's stages and specific phenomena observed. Another indicator is the sound, each fire is accompanied by a series of sounds, such as cracking, which indicates the degree of danger.

By reading these elements firefighters can predict the stage in which the fire is and plan ahead for its extinction. For example, if the firefighters reach the fire at the stage of flame over they can intervene offensively by starting the attack on the fire to put it down. If they have reached the stage of rollover they will act defensively, with more caution, acting with water jets to cool down the fire and respecting more safety features.

In addition to preparing for interventions to fight a fire, the firefighters prepare for other types of interventions that they are called at, the most common being the rescue of persons (and of various animals) fallen in wells and other confined spaces. The rescue teams work in three teams of two men each - one coordinating team consisting of a rescuer and the coordinating firefighter (that coordinates all the teams participating in the intervention and whose commands are obeyed by all participants), and two teams for lowering and retrieving the rescuer and the victim.

Also during the daily training, firefighters exercise how to save themselves in fires in tall



buildings, when the stairwell is collapsed or filled with smoke, and the only way out is through a window. Using ropes and harnesses that each firefighter carries, they have to rescue themselves and help their colleagues. They practice rappelling, rope recovery, and the funicular descent technique that is used in interventions where the victims cannot be evacuated using the stairs.







In addition to firefighting training, the firemen also have a daily routine of physical training, meant to increase their capacity to cope with long-term interventions, especially when using a breathing apparatus in order to dose the effort and use an oxygen tank as long as possible.



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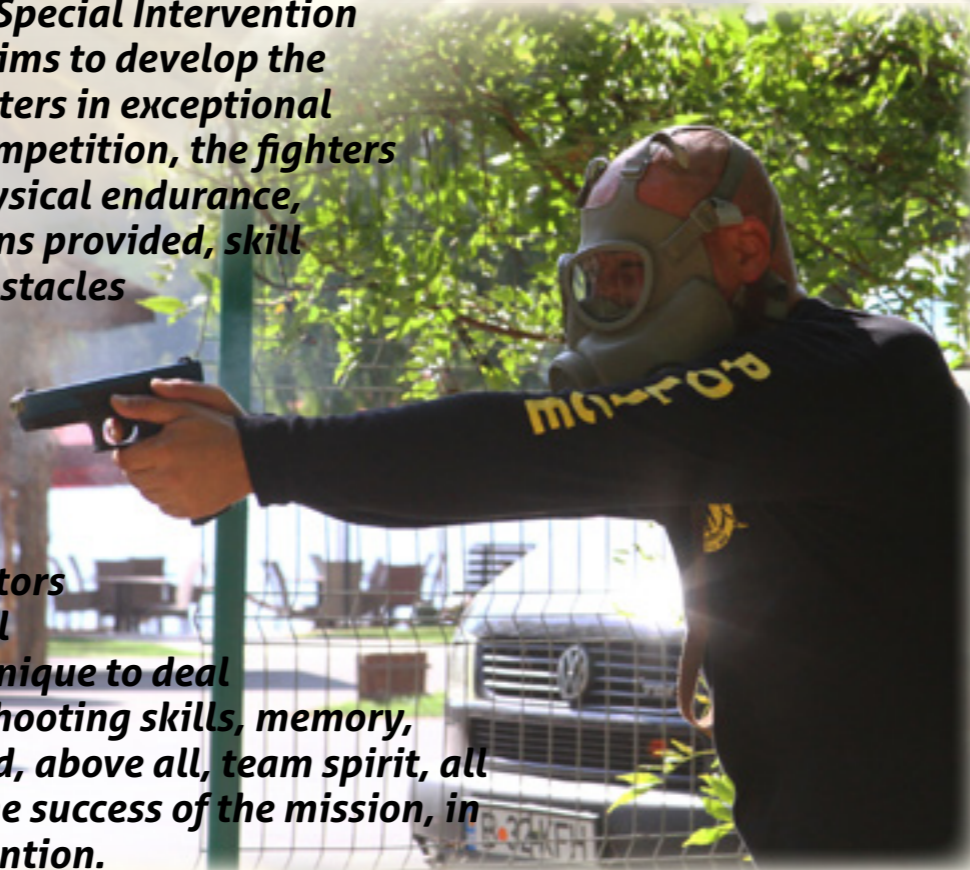
# Special Intervention Structures Cup of



Text & photo: Marcella Dragan

**The fourth edition of the Special Intervention Structures Competition aims to develop the intervention skills of fighters in exceptional situations. During the competition, the fighters participate in tests of physical endurance, shooting with the weapons provided, skill in overcoming various obstacles and handling extreme situations, which require special attention and concentration.**

**In order to successfully pass these tests, competitors need a very good physical condition, adequate technique to deal with various obstacles, shooting skills, memory, distributive attention and, above all, team spirit, all together guaranteeing the success of the mission, in real conditions of intervention.**



**Tests of endurance and specific tactics, brilliantly passed by the intervention fighters**

In the first stage of the fourth edition of the Special Intervention Structures Competition, 47 teams of fighters of the intervention

structures within the Romanian Police competed, together with teams of the Romanian Gendarmerie and the Romanian Intelligence Service. The fighters passed tests of skill, of overcoming obstacles, in conditions of increased difficulty, having to face situations that involve

concentration and intense physical effort. Endurance tests and specific intervention tactics were carried out both on land and on water, the participants simulating emergency response methods (search, search, rescue, transport of injured, recovery of objects), applied swimming (recovery of objects floating







on the water, shooting with guns at targets on the water). They performed simulations of real situations, during which the fighters had the mission to transport hostages in rough terrain or to recover radioactive substances and to store them in safe perimeters. At the same time, the fighters had to go, against the clock, tactical routes, costing in crossing some improvised bridges at height, they went down with a zip line, also performing rappelling descents on the ropes.

**Precision shots**

The second day of the competition, the Special Intervention Structures Cup brought together the 47 teams

of fighters of the intervention structures within the Romanian Police, together with teams of the Romanian Gendarmerie and the Romanian Intelligence Service, in the training ground and in the training base in Baneasa. Here, the fighters had to perform precision shooting, with the weapons provided, after completing complex and difficult routes, which tested their physical resistance. Thus, the competitors had to climb, against the clock, different platforms, at height, and on the ground, they had to slip through gymnastics porches, placed to increase the difficulty of the probes. At the same time, the team spirit was an essential element in the success of the tests in

the shortest time. The tasks were thus strategically divided, within each team, some fighters having to remove obstacles from the route, and the best shooter of the team being designated to execute gunfire in the most difficult targets. Thus, the fighters demonstrated their ability to concentrate and take aim with the weapon, after being placed in situations requiring special physical effort. The tests were successfully passed by competitors, who made the most of their strength and physical endurance, the technique of tackling various obstacles and shooting skills. The last day of the Romanian Police organized the competition consisted of passing some physical tests

with a high degree of difficulty, in sustained speed, over a distance of over six kilometers, in the Comana Forest, in Giurgiu County. Teams of fighters from the intervention structures within the Romanian Police, the Romanian Gendarmerie and the Romanian Intelligence Service competed in the endurance and field orientation tests. This last day was also the most physically demanding for the teams entered in the competition, which had to go, against the clock, a pre-established tactical route, in wooded terrain and with significant level differences. During the over 6 km. of the route, the fighters went through sections that involved squatting, simulating the passage under certain







**Winners of the Special Intervention Structures Cup**

After three days of competition, during a ceremony that took place at the „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy in Bucharest, the team of S.A.S. Galati was designated the winner of the Special Intervention Structures Competition, 2014 edition. The S.A.S. teams that also got the podium were from Bucharest and Buzau, winners of second and third place, respectively. The Timis S.A.S. team ranked fourth, and the fifth place was occupied by the S.R.I. team.



obstacles. They also transported heavy items in a coordinated manner. Next, they climbed a steep slope, at the end, they had to retrieve a flag at the top of a tree. The teams formed human pyramids to obtain it, thus managing to reach the height necessary to obtain the target object. At the same time, the route involved the transport, in rough terrain, for several hundred meters of a person allegedly injured or immobilized. In order to cover the route in the shortest time, coordination, team spirit and the ability to concentrate were needed, in conditions of extreme and sustained physical effort.



# BLOOD DUST GLORY

## 30<sup>TH</sup> GUARDS REGIMENT

### „MIHAI VITEAZUL“

**They are known for their drill team, a performance that attracts audiences of all ages around them to any event they participate in. Most of the time, it is synonymous with the name of the 30th Guards Regiment „Mihai Viteazu“. But the missions of the military in the Regiment are much more and more extensive.**

*Text & photo: Marcella Dragan*

As shown in the official presentation, the missions performed by the Regiment include the organization and execution of military ceremonies and honors at the level of the Presidency, Parliament, Government, Ministry of National Defense, categories of armed forces, and other representative activities, with different occasions. Also, the permanent guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is ensured, as well as the military ceremonies carried out at this monument and the security of some central objectives of the Ministry of National Defense. When necessary, the Regiment soldiers participate in limiting and removing the effects in case of major accidents and natural disasters and training the other servicemen to carry out these missions.

An important component of the activity of officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers and volunteer ranks is the execution of military ceremonies and honors occasioned by the visit to our country of heads of state, high foreign dignitaries, heads of government, diplomats, secular and ecumenical officials. The military also carried out missions outside the national territory, such as those at events dedicated to the memory of the 2,400 Romanian prisoners who ended up in Alsace in the spring of 1917, on the occasion of the annual meetings of members of the Romanian colonies in



France, Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg; events dedicated to the anniversary of the Republic of Italy, the French Republic, events dedicated to the fall of the Plevna redoubt in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Missions where they are highly appreciated for their special presence, as some of the soldiers I met during my visit to the Regiment would tell me.

The moment of my visit was a very appropriate one, just two days before a national holiday for which the military had extended their daily training period. „The daily regime includes, in addition to the usual training that is done in any military unit, also the specific training, the special trainings for the drill team or for the preparation of some missions. The training is done about 5 hours a day, when the situation requires it, like the days before some missions that include the drill team, as is this case, says the soldier Lucian Stirbu Lucian, a member of the drill team. He also proudly admits that „training is hard only if you don't get involved, if it doesn't attract you, if you like and are attracted, then it's easy.“

These are words spoken during the short break taken due to the rain, a breaking of clouds that for a few tens of minutes had covered everything with a curtain of water, making it physically impossible to continue training. And although they had started training from the first hour, none of the soldiers seemed too happy about the break. I am told that the result, their best evolution is more important than the work and effort, „when you are on a mission and people outside the unit or outside the system see you, it is pleasant to be applauded, appreciated, respected, adds Lucian. I chose a military career

because it is honorable. The drill is a plus, it is very attractive in terms of instruction and discipline, because it is based on organization, seriousness, respect for superiors and colleagues. You have to have the desire to work, so that we can work and fulfill the missions to the end.“

Lucian is one of the newest soldiers in the drill team, but they and the elders summarize their work in simple words, in the feelings they try when they participate in the missions that bring them in front of people and all their work is appreciated and rewarded.

Among the oldest soldiers is Sergeant Major Bogdan Dobre, commander of the Drill Team of the 30th Guards Regiment. He joined the regiment in 2004 for compulsory military service. He liked the drill and chose to stay, continuing as a military employee. „I've been doing this type of exercise since 2006, for him I stayed in the unit. For me personally, the drill team is the most beautiful thing in all the activity of the Regiment.“

The dedication to the work he does is felt in every word when he talks about his work and the people he leads. He is proud of the appreciations received at the international representation missions, in France or Italy, where the Romanian drill team was congratulated both by the host country and by the representatives of the other invited countries. „We had a rifle handling performance and they were very impressed and congratulated us there. In Europe there are no units like ours, the Americans have a very well developed drill teams. They have schools, competitions, they have a history. But not in our country. There are very few teams in Europe. And we can still be proud of the fact that we have the







only girls in the drill team in the world. It's quite difficult, because you have to throw the rifle, which would it's 3.8 -3.9 kg., at certain distances and at a certain tempo, to catch it from where it should be, to throw it well so that the colleague to whom you throw the rifle can catch it properly. It's quite heavy due to the weight of the weapon, which is felt during the exercise."

But the girls do not complain, on the contrary, they keep the same training rhythm as the boys, and refuse any special treatment, as I would see with the two girls, Sergeant Andreea Tiu and Captain Cri-na Bejgu, who participated in training that day.

## Regiment's History

Text: Elisabeta Preda  
(Regiment 30 Garda)

Since ancient times, the sovereigns wanted to have a corps of soldiers to guard the family and the residence and to impress their guests. In Europe, although there were bodies performing guard and ceremonial missions (the Swiss Guard was established in the 13th century), only after the 17th century were they individualized, having a specific structure. The Romanian countries were no exception, as there were various structures of this nature, but, with the Union of the Principalities, a unit was organized to ensure the guarding of the royal palace and military ceremonies.

Thus, Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza signed the „birth certificate“ of the 1st Tiraliori Battalion, marking the beginning of the history of the guard units, a stormy history, with achievements and accomplishments during the holidays, but also with pages of glory, courage and blood sacrifices. on the battle-fields.

The genealogical tree of the guard units reflects, by simply following the historical data and the names, their evolution.

On July 1, 1860, by Ordinance no. 63 of the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the first guard unit in the history of the modern Romanian Army was established. Article III of the ordinance stipulated: „Battalion III of Regiment no. 5 will detach from that Regiment and, by completion, will form the Hunting Battalion... Mr. Major Logade, who commands the 3rd Battalion of the 5th Regiment, will form the cadres of the Hunters Battalion and a chancellery again assimilated to those of the regiments, having to be administered separately; direct independence from the Minister of Rezel“ (old Romanian word for War).

The unit, directly subordinated to the Ministry of War, was structured on eight companies and a platoon out of ranks, with a staff of 32 officers and non-commissioned officers and 886 soldiers (staff per state, to be completed, action that took place during over one year). Its missions were as follows: military training, identical to that of „dorobanti“ (infantry) line units, coordinated by normative acts issued by the General Staff of the Army of the United Principalities; „To defend the princely court and His Highness, the Ruler of the Country, to serve the honors given at the royal palace“; ensuring the security of some important public institutions, first of all of the Ministry of the Army, even of some dignitaries.

The name Battalion 1 Tiraliori is due to the use of a neologism of French origin - tirailleur -, which means „infantryman in charge of research missions.“ A year later, however, in 1861, on the occasion of the relocation

of the 1st Tiraliori Battalion from Iasi to Bucharest, both in its Historical Register and in its correspondence, the first name no longer appears, but the 1st Hunters Battalion, mentioning in the Register that it is „the first guard troop corps of the Romanian army“. It should also be noted that, at its founding, in July 1860, the 1st Tiraliori Battalion was given a green silk flag, on which were embroidered with yellow thread a laurel wreath and a hunting horn (since the 15th century it is remembered that each unit had its own flag).

On October 1, 1863, the 1st Hunters Battalion, like other units of the united army, was handed the tri-color flag - red, yellow and blue -, which represented the national flag adopted at the Romanian Revolution of 1848. After moving to Bucharest, the battalion's barracks were even close to the Royal Palace, in the Cotroceni area. In the regulations on military uniforms (March 1861), it was stated that „the head of the 1st Hunters Battalion will wear an egret, as the head of a Battalion that makes a separate corps“. Also, the epaulette in the Hunters' Battalion „can be replaced by a fodder, just like artillery, gold for officers and green wool for lower ranks.“

The armament was similar to that of other dorobanti units. In 1865, the soldiers were equipped with the Russian rifle „Peabody“, a novelty for that time. The battalion participated in the War of Independence (1877-1878), standing out from the first days of entering the theater of operations in the Balkans. It made its sacrificial contribution to the realization of the centuries-old desideratum of the Romanians - the National Independence of Romania.

In 1930, Charles II established, by High Royal Decree, the Palace

Guard and introduced the name of guard unit, which he granted to units with rich traditions, such as: 2nd Guards Hunters Regiment „Re-gina Elisabeta“, „Mihai Viteazul“ Guard Regiment, Horse Guard Regiment, „Regina Maria“ 4th Rosiori Guard Regiment.

In 1948, under the pressure of a foreign ideology, the guard units were disbanded, but the Republican Guard Battalion was established to ensure military ceremonial missions. After only two months of operation, it was transformed into the Republican Guard Regiment by uniting the Republican Guard Battalion with the Guard Battalion of the Armed Forces Ministry.

In the spring of 1964, like the Phoenix bird, the Guard Regiment was reborn from the ashes of adversity and took over the glorious legacy of its forerunners. On March 1, 1964, based on the Order of the General Staff no. CL 00214 of 28.02.1964, the 30th Guards Regiment was organized, subordinated to the General Staff.

In order to ensure, from all points of view, the military ceremonial missions, on May 18, 1964, the military music of the 46th Transmission Regiment was moved to the 30th Guards Regiment.

In 1970, a new guard uniform was instituted, consisting of a navy suit, white shirt, black tie, boot and white harness belt, a uniform that marked the return to the Romanian tradition of the ceremonial uniform.

On October 21, 1974, the battle flag of the 30th Guards Regiment was decorated with the Order „Tu-dor Vladimirescu“ third class. On 01.03.1990, in recognition of the merits and heroism shown by the regiment's soldiers during the events of December 1989, he was summoned to the army and transformed into the 30th







Guards Brigade. On October 25, 1991, the great unit participated in bringing back to the Capital the bones of the Unknown Hero of Romania, ensuring the ceremonies in Marasesti and Bucharest and accompanying the funeral procession; In order to ensure permanent security and ceremonies organized at the Tomb of the Unknown Hero, a company subunit was assigned within the brigade.

the most elegant and refined in Europe, taking over traditional elements embroi-dered in a modern form, without affecting its solemnity and prestige through excessive ornamentation. In July 2014, the protocol summer uniform was introduced, a model that takes over the elements from the interwar ceremony uniform, bringing changes only from the chromatic point of view and of the material

On May 16, 2000, as a sign of appreciation for the way of fulfilling the received missions, the battle flag of the unit is decorated by the President of Romania with the National Order „Star of Romania” in the rank of Knight.

In the context of reforming the army and supporting the efforts for Romania’s accession to NATO, on July 25, 2001, the 30th Guards Brigade „Mihai Viteazul” was



On December 1, 1991, during the ceremony dedicated to the celebration of Romania’s National Day, the Honor Guard paraded for the first time in the new ceremonial uniform. The main source of inspi-ration for the specialists who made the ceremonial uniform of the Guard Brigade, was the uniform established by the Regulation on the description of the uniform from 1934. The current ceremonial uniform is one of

from which it is made. The ceremony of handing over the new Battle Flag of the brigade and awarding the honorary name „Mihai Viteazul” took place on 05.05.1995.

Resuming the Romanian interwar military tradition, on November 12, 1998, the unit took the Holy Great Martyr Mina as its spiritual protector. It was decided to build a church with this patron saint inside the unit.

transformed into a regiment was named the 30th Guards and Protocol Regiment „Mihai Viteazul”.

On September 20, 2009, for the personnel of the 30th Guards Regiment „Mihai Viteazul” it was a great celebration of the soul: the consecration of the military church dedicated to the Great Saints Martyrs Mina - the miracle worker and St. George - the bearer of victory.



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# STARS FOR VETERANS

## SACRIFICE REQUIRES RESPECT!



**17th Dragos Voda Mountain Troops Battalion Team:**  
 Corporal Andronachi Petrica, Corporal Candrea Costel,  
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 Nicolae, Lieutenant Iriciuc Ciprian, Lieutenant Pascan  
 Vasile, Sergeant Iriciuc Ana, Lieutenant Cocardan  
 Ovidiu, Corporal Sacaliuc Adrian, Soldier Sacaliuc  
 Adrian, Major Niga Adrian, Captain Tuca Marius,  
 Platoon Leader Munteanu Dan, Corporal Buzila Ionut  
 and Major Cristian Arsene.

This December 1, I chose to spend my day differently than at the usual military parade and I was with the soldiers of the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragos Voda” volunteers in the „Stars for veterans” relay, organized by Invictus Romania.

The soldiers from Vatra Dornei were part of the group of approximately 130 soldiers, from 24 garrisons, who volunteered in teams and planned, on Romania’s National Day, the project „Stars for Veterans!”, which involved daily stages of running, between the home garrisons, to reach, at the same time, Alba Iulia on December 1st. From all corners of the country, soldiers of the Romanian Army, volunteered in teams, from Babadag, Galati, Iasi, Piatra-Neamt, Focsani, Buzau, Vatra Dornei, Miercurea Ciuc, Simleul Silvaniei, Bistrita, Ploiesti, Sf. Gheorghe, Brasov, Fagara, Cincu, Sibiu, Zalau, Cluj, Timisoara, Arad, Deva, Bucharest, Curtea de Arges and Craiova have joined forces to draw, by running, a star on the map of Romania for our veterans! A star for veterans!

In each of these localities, the team leaders paid tribute to the Monuments of the Nation’s Heroes.

The project aimed to bring to the attention of civil society the respect and appreciation that veterans, the wounded, the disabled and the descendants of those who died as a result of participating in military actions deserve. It was an event open to all, military and civilian alike,











an event through which an informal group of people able to make a difference, change, motivate, inspire, put their pure soul in the service of volunteering and comrades. Fight against ignorance to strengthen a bridge between the military and civilians.

The Dorna's Mountain Troops ran from Vatra Dornei to Bistrita, where they handed over the baton to the Bistrita military to meet in Alba Iulia on December 1 representatives from all participating units.

***Sacrifice requires respect!***



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## Invictus Romania

Invictus Romania is an informal group of people able to make a difference, change, motivate, and inspire.

Invictus Romania is a fight against ignorance and a bridge between the military and civilians as people, an education project whose purpose is to unite, to catalyze efforts not to exclude.

Invictus Romania is an ideal through which the pure soul is put at the service of volunteers and comrades.

The 2014 edition of the Invictus Paralympic Games passed without the Romanian flag being present. Our wounded fighters need to be in a place where they can show that they are as good as their counterparts in other countries.

Invictus Romania's mission is to send at least one injured fighter to Afghanistan or Iraq to the next edition of the Invictus Paralympic Games. Because sacrifice requires respect! BECAUSE WE CAN!

The project was born with the participation of 3 Invictus Volunteers at the Transmarathon and at the fundraising campaign for the Children's Forest on 20.09.2014, thus commemorating the sacrifice of the soldiers who died building the Transfagarasan.

Events such as the Veterans' Relay took place on 25.10 - Army Day, through a relay-type run on the distance of Bucharest Carei (1,100km). In some localities, students from schools and veterans came out to greet the relay with flags and the runners stopped to give a little history lesson.

Invictus was also present at the Army Day in Schools, an event through which the students of 5 high schools in Bucharest learned about the veterans of yesterday and today. On 8.11 Invictus gathered 40 volunteers who participated in the afforestation campaign of the Viitor Plus

association, probably the first large-scale event that linked a group of soldiers to a civilian organization.

On 11.11- Veterans Day, Invictus organized the first triathlon ever held in the army (21km running, 40km cycling and 1.5km swimming).

On 1.12, Invictus organized Stars for Veterans, a run that started in 24 garrisons and ended in Alba Iulia.

We will continue to mark such historic events and spread volunteering and fundraising in the military, but at the same time bring the military and civil society back together through education.

We feel the need to make things better. However, we strongly believe that it doesn't matter what you are, it matters what you do. You don't like something, a state of certain things, think, identify the cause, not the effect ... and then act.



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FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS





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