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# TACTICA magazine

61<sup>ST</sup> Mountain Troops Brigade  
General VIRGIL Bădulescu



**Special Actions Service Arges**  
**Romanian camouflaGe suit**

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## One step ahead: FROM Galați TO INTERNATIONALIZATION

The country's defense strategy is translated, among others, into individual equipment needs, and the city of Galați brings a substantial contribution in the field through the company ADINA SRL. Through its production facility in Galați equipped with high-performance equipment and a young team of dedicated specialists, the company has developed a portfolio of products and services worthy of an international company.

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The recommendations received both from the first-class purchasing units and from private clients support the quality of the services and confirm the trust given to the Galați company.

To the question „What word best describes the company?“, An employee answered: DYNAMISM. Asked why, he added: everything



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Asked what they are proud of in these actions, the project managers listed some key elements that will define the company in terms such as modern, optimization and internationalization:

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## 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Bădulescu”



*Text & foto: Marcella Drăgan*

At the end of January, the scouts of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Bădulescu” and from the units subordinated to the large unit conducted the winter mountain training in a district in the area of the Călimani mountains in the Eastern Carpathians.

The camp focused mainly on ski patrol, given that, depending on the type of snow, from one day to the next, one exercise did not look like the other, even if the same route was used. In addition to the main objective of improving the military's skills on skiing on medium distances of up to 30 km, another objective was to organize, prepare and execute the shootings in specific conditions of the mountainous terrain. It was also aimed at training search and rescue teams in different situations, improving skills in the



use of mountaineering materials in winter, in isolation and, last but not least, the organization, arrangement and living in the mountain camp in specific conditions, time and season.

Thus, the soldiers practiced the procedures of moving on skis in mountainous-forested terrain, on routes with medium difficulty, difficult and very difficult, aiming to improve the skills of efficient use of skiing techniques, performing frontal movements on skis, falls and lifting, the correct execution of the ascent and descent procedures, the crossing of unevenness, ruptures and slope connections on skis. Tactical training exercises were carried out in the mountainous terrain. The search and rescue teams were tested in the mountainous terrain and the knowledge of the intervention model and the activities carried out to rescue the injured, the wounded and the military immobilized in the field were verified. Based on a scenario, the teams had to intervene to save some people in the Călimani Mountains, at an altitude of 2021 meters. Team members were able to arrive at the scene in a timely manner and provide first aid to the victims of the alleged accident.

The day I arrived at the camp, I attended a series of military training workshops. Thus, at the first workshop they were training for life in isolation and I could see different types of shelters with improvised means and different types of fires that scouts use. At the second workshop, we saw the search and rescue team providing first aid and transporting an injured person safely to a means of extraction. It consisted in providing first aid to the fighter, his transport by the team on the achie, later the transport by specific means of climbing to the ridge then the crossing,





on a funicular, to the means of evacuation. At the third workshop I saw a search patrol out of contact with the enemy, moving away. Subsequently, the patrol was attacked, occupied the firing position and responded with fire.

During the camp, the scouts of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade

„General Virgil Bădulescu” collaborated very well, forming a real team based on the cohesion between subunits, thus rising to the requirements of the level of military and specialized training. The novelty was the other units, in addition to the scouts, who integrated very well, learning from each other. Among the

traditional scout soldiers of these types of camps, through their subunit commanders, an attempt was made, and a very high percentage was successful, to combine the experience of the elders in this weapon with the other fighters who are at the first activities of this kind.



## BRIGADIER General MARIUS GIURCĂ, commander of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Bădulescu”



### What did advancing to the rank of general mean to you?

Promotion to the rank of general was a great joy for me personally. But not only for me, but I am also convinced for my subordinates, all the comrades and mountain troops from Harghita, and maybe even the 4th Infantry Division „Gemina”. It is the realization of a dream that takes us steps, as you know, since military high

school. When every soldier walks through the gate of the military high school for the first time and wears the uniform with the red lamp, he wonders if he will ever have the opportunity to turn that red lamp into the whip of the general. And of course, like any soldier carrying a general's staff in his backpack, this dream has come true. I have the impression, and I am convinced that it is,

that it is a culmination of the efforts, sacrifices and all the work done during my career. It is, first of all, a recognition by my hierarchical commanders, by the higher echelons, of the merits and sacrifices and of the activity carried out at the command of the structures during the career evolution. This rank came at the age of full professional maturity, after I went through all the command ranks in the military hierarchy, from platoon commander, company commander, battalion and mountain troop brigade. I consider that this evolution at all stages of my military career is one of the indispensable conditions, obligatory for access to this high rank of general.

### What does it mean to run a mountain troop unit? What are the biggest challenges and what are the satisfactions?

As in any position with such a responsibility, the challenges that arise are unique and major, given that we always relate to the allocated resources, both financial and material, and we must simultaneously manage the most important resource, respectively the human resource. In the second half of 2014, it was possible to fully carry out all the training activities, the exercises that were planned. It was the first year, after a series of many years, in which the Romanian Army, and as a result our brigade, received fuel and financial resources, not only to be able to carry out all the planned activities, but also to carry out activities in plus, which aimed at intensifying the instruction, and thus the results were as expected. We managed, in the second half of last year, to bring out the fighting technique,

fighting machines and all the main categories of weapons, to exercises and various training activities, so that the efficiency of training increased and the results were not long in coming.

It has been a fruitful year in securing those commitment credits that the entire Romanian army has benefited from, and the outlook for 2015 is also auspicious. We started this year in very good condition. This is one of the greatest satisfactions; as long as we have material and financial resources, the satisfactions of both commanders and subordinates increase automatically. If you could see how much joy could be read in the eyes of the driving mechanics, of the subunit commanders when they saw that we had diesel so that we could perform much more exercises than we had planned. And that we can really train in conditions similar to combat and in conditions of travel in the districts where the training takes place, not to simulate the training in the barracks, because we do not have diesel or we do not have other resources. The satisfactions were full from all the staff, and I hope that the resources will bring us the same satisfaction this year. And I had the satisfaction that people were able to do their job properly. I had great satisfaction on the command line and personal, given by the satisfactions of the subordinates. I would like to mention that last year we had a series of joint training exercises with subunits within the United States Marine Corps deployed in Romania and through these exercises we responded and still respond to the interest of American partners to train in the mountains. I think we can already speak of a partnership with the US Marines, as these exercises represent a well-deserved opportunity

to practice joint operating procedures according to Alliance standards. Also included in these exercises were some sessions of alpine training, horseback riding, harnessed and samarized, specific to Romanian mountain troops, who enjoyed a special interest from the Marines.

### What are the plans for 2015?

This year we also plan several joint training exercises with US Marines. These exercises will take place both in the Rotunda polygon and in the alpine training polygons, in the Bicaz Gorges and in the Râșnoavei Gorges, with the subordinate battalions. We will use as usual the horses we have, and which are particularly efficient in the wooded mountainous terrain; we will use the fighting machines of the mountain troops, who, even if they are of considerable age, face the mountainous terrain in very good. As we did last year, the actions will maintain their joint character by using the IAR 330 Puma Socat helicopters as an air support element. In addition, we will diversify the area of cooperation by including CBRN and specific mountain artillery training sessions within BSRF 15. These are the main priority objectives we have during 2015, small events, up to company level, training with Americans, and of course, our command training, troop training, training exercises according to the main activity plan that has been approved.

### How did the joint exercises with the American partners influence the training of Romanian mountain troops?

All the joint training activities that took place with the American partner induced a series of lessons learned, which we apply in the training process carried

out by the units and large units of Mountain Troops. In the sense that many procedures for carrying out certain standard activities have been revised, updated, taking into account the need to standardize the instruction in relation to these procedures. We should recognize, and I am convinced that this is the case, that the US Marines have also updated and perfected their specific procedures for carrying out combat operations in the mountain environment by learning and taking over from mountain troops specific procedures, having since they are not specialized for carrying out combat actions in the mountains. We will practice many such procedures in 2015 at BSRF and I told you that we will diversify the area of cooperation in the fields of specific training of artillery, CBRN and other types of weapons, to complete this picture of joint training.

During these exercises, I performed, at first more timidly, later with good results, the transfer of command authority, successively, from American subunit commanders to Romanian commanders and vice versa, in the sense that a company of American Marine Corps took over a platoon of mountain troops and a company of mountain troops took over a platoon of marines, in the executed exercises, even in the LFX type exercises, with combat shootings, which is especially important by the fact that the training in these exercises is performed exactly as in combat conditions. During this transfer of authority, many problems were perfected that required our intervention, considering the differences in the language of transmitting commands to fighters, on hierarchical steps, from company, platoon, group, to fighter, to the piece for execution fire.



**Colonel Dr. Ioan BURGHELEA, Deputy Commander of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Badulescu”**



I have been working only for mountain troops for almost 15 years, but my professional experience did not start with mountain troops, but much earlier, in 1981. Here are 34 years of activity only in this field. A profession that I embraced from the beginning, since I went to military school, that's what I wanted to do and

that's what I've done so far. Of course, life made me have joys and sorrows during the period in which I carried out my military activity, joys that I managed to access all hierarchical ranks until today, when I am deputy of the Brigade commander, but in at the same time, sacrifices were imposed, which I, my family, and

my children endured. I changed no less than 8 garrisons from the beginning until now. I had to find a job for my wife, a school for my child, take them everywhere after me, and lead a normal life. I was very lucky to have an understanding family; the wife, a teacher, mostly managed to follow me everywhere. Still, there were cases where I went to some garrisons where I actually could not find a job for my wife and I was I had to commute. But the plus is on the side of the military profession, and that makes me feel fulfilled right now, even if I'm about to retire soon.

Here in the unit for me was a new beginning, the mountain troops. I was an infantryman, in fact the infantry is the mother of mountain troops, but I also embraced this weapon with joy, I did my duty since I came to the unit, I adapted to the mountain environment and the team I work in. At the moment I can say that I have no strangers about mountain troops, I have no strangers about my mountain colleagues. I always liked to promote teamwork, and I worked with them on the position that each was assigned and I gave credit to everyone to be able to manifest. And the military adapted to my style and what they learned was beneficial for everyone. I let them manifest, let each one present themselves as best they could and, where I considered it necessary, I intervened and supported them in such a way that they also felt fulfilled in what they do.

The highlight of my career as a mountain troop was the mission I completed in Afghanistan for six months. I was the one who set up the position at the Southern Regional Command, respectively liaison officer at the

Southern Regional Command, I practically represented the Romanian Army in the theater of operations in Afghanistan. It was an extraordinary experience for me, both professionally and personally. It was not easy for me, it was difficult without a family, to work in an environment only with foreigners, a hostile environment, because Afghanistan is a hostile field, with many surprises and many events that took place there. For example, 87 missiles exploded at the Kandahar base while I was there. Leaving here, from the tranquility of the Harghita mountains, in Afghanistan, in the rain of projectiles was a very sudden transition, I managed to adapt and easily get over those moments.

Every weapon has its specifics. I came here from the infantry where I was only in tanks and carriers and I went to the mountain troops where I found besides these horses, dogs, and other occupations of mountain troops. The camps take place in a different way, the cohesion is different for mountain troops, here everything is a team, one man depends on the other, you can't do climbing if there is no team to support each other. That gave me a gain in what I later became. The camps are like a family, from the one who makes the food to the one who takes care of the instruction; they are very well organized. When I started my career in Miercurea Ciuc, the first meeting with mountain troops, with my future colleagues, was in an application led by the army from Buzău, that's how it was then, on the mountains' picks around the city of Miercurea Ciuc. After that, I took full advantage of the process of transforming the military units. I remember the most beautiful jobs I performed, that of platoon commander when I started

my military career, that of unit commander at Piatra Neamț when I began to really understand what the command act means. And the one when I started my activity here as chief of staff at our place, at the troops.

I sought to materialize the military experience in something that remains, I finished a doctoral thesis on a current topic and which is much debated internationally, even now very present, about terrorism and the use of armed forces in the fight against terrorism. I managed to do a work that was appreciated. I managed to publish 3 books,

„Laptop terrorism”, „War without fronts and without borders”, also related to terrorism, and now, following the experience in Afghanistan, I have a book ready, I'm just going to find the publishing house, „Afghanistan, the land of hope.” I started in this book from the moment I decided to go to the theater of operations in Afghanistan until the moment I got home, in front of the door. I combined my experience with the cultural life of the Afghans, the spiritual life, the family, the feelings, I talked to them, I was among them, and it was easy for me to understand what was going on there in Afghanistan.





## 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Bădulescu” SHORT HISTORY

*Text: Information and Public Relations Officer Lt. Col. Laurențiu Andriesei*

According to the General Staff, the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Bădulescu” was established on October 14, 1991, as a result of the need to adapt the National Defense System to the then trends of the contemporary military phenomenon. The brigade was formed by abolishing the task of mobilizing the 2nd Mountain Troops Brigade, having in structure the 24th Mountain Troops Battalion (already existing), the 290th Mountain Troops Battalion, the 468th Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Division, the 385th Launcher Division, the subunits and brigade formations. On July 27, 1993, under the coordination of the brigade command, the 304th Mountain Troops Battalion was deployed in the Harghita garrison. Starting with January 24, 1994, the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade was subordinated to the 10th Territorial Army Corps.

On May 7, 1995, the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade was granted, by Presidential Decree no. 87 of May 4, 1995, the battle flag and the honorary name „General Virgil Bădulescu”.

The initial structure of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade was completed by taking over on July 25, 2000, the 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragoș Vodă” Vatra Dornei. In 2003, the 290th Mountain Troops Battalion was disbanded, and the brigade included the 22nd Mountain Troops Battalion, deployed in the Sfântu Gheorghe garrison, the 27th Mountain Troops Battalion, deployed in the Borșa garrison, and the 435th Support Battalion was established. Miercurea Ciuc. The brigade was re-subordinated in 2004 to the 4th Territorial Army Corps „Marshal Constantin

Prezan”. In 2006, according to the Army Restructuring Framework Plan, the 27th Mountain Troops Battalions and 304th Mountain Troops Battalions were disbanded, and the 26th Mountain Troops Battalion, deployed in the Brad garrison, was re-subordinated. Currently, the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade „General Virgil Bădulescu” is subordinated to the 4th Infantry Division „Gemina”, with the following composition: 17th Mountain Troops Battalion „Dragoș Vodă”, 22nd Mountain Troops Battalion „Cireșoia”, 24th Troops Battalion „General Gheorghe Avramescu” Mountain, 385th Artillery Battalion, 468th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion and 435th Logistics Support Battalion „CIUC”.

From the establishment until now, at the command of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade, the following officers were, during the periods mentioned next to each one, as follows:


- Brigadier General Christmas Leucea - 11.11.1991 - 08.12.1997;
- Colonel Viorel Căliman - 08.12.1997 - 01.02.2000;
- Brigadier General Cornel Vaida - 01.02.2000 - 15.07.2004;
- Colonel Petru Toader - 15.07.2004 - 01.05.2005;
- Colonel Vasile Bărea - 01.05.2005 - 11.02.2010;
- Brigadier General Gheorghe-Ion Vătămanu-Coanta - 11.02.2010 - 05.12.2013;
- Colonel Marius Giurcă - 05.12.2013 (advanced to the rank of brigadier general on January 23, 2015).

From its start until now, soldiers from the command of the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade and subordinate units have carried

out peace support missions under NATO command, in T.O. Afghanistan, as follows:

- January - August 2009: The Zabul Task Force detachment, consisting of B 24 VM soldiers, assigned to Company 4 V. M. / B. 21 V. M. Predeal / Bg. 2 V.M. - military actions in T.O. Afghanistan;
- September 2010 - April 2011: Operational Advisory and Liaison Team type Battalion level combat support - rotation I (OMLT CS) - missions in ZABUL province - Afghanistan;
- March - September 2012: Operational Advisory and Liaison Team Battle Battalion Level Support - Rotation IV, (OMLT CS) - missions in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations;
- Within the maneuvering battalions / QALAT:
- December 2012 - June 2013: Cp.1 VM from B. 17 VM - Vatra Dornei, assigned to the 1st Maneuver Battalion (B. 191 I. / Bg.18 I).
- January - August 2013: Cp. 1 VM from B. 22 VM - Sfântu Gheorghe, assigned to the 2nd Maneuver Battalion (B. 32 I. / Bg.18 I).

More than 250 soldiers from the 61st Mountain Troops Brigade participated individually in international missions under the auspices of the UN. (Congo, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Nepal) as well as in multinational commands and structures of the General Staff of the Land Forces - „ANA TRAINING”, „ENDURING FREEDOM”.

In 2013, two joint training exercises were conducted with the American partner, within BSRF -14, and in 2014 four more company-level training exercises were planned and carried out. 

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# Special Actions Service Arges

Text & foto: Marcella Drăgan

Although most of the missions they perform are searches, escorts and measures of public order control, the fighters of the Argeş Special Actions Service are preparing for all the situations they may encounter in the field.

The day I arrived at SAS Argeş, the fighters planned a series of training that included identifying and neutralizing a target, shooting and exiting a building in an open space.

The first part of the training, identifying a target inside a building, was performed with complete combat equipment. The policemen had to identify an enemy from a lot of target faces and neutralize him. To make the exercise as real as possible, the targets were evenly spread, hidden in the building rooms that the fighters use for training. So



the policemen had to cover and scan all the rooms and observe everything around them. In order to increase the degree of stress to which the fighters are subjected, and thus to be better prepared for the actual situations on the field, the training commander chose to make the exercise more complicated. The fighters had to shoot at targets through niches marked with different symbols, using the one with the same symbol as the one on the target identification card.

The lack of training conditions is compensated by the ingenuity of the fighters, an urban fight being simulated in the rooms of the building used for training. „We can't do the training in the range, because we don't have a shooting range, but here, and using airsoft replicas, we can train in conditions close to reality.”

In teams of two, the fighters started to identify the target, remembering both the characteristics of the face and the symbols on the presentation sheet of the „offender”, in order to complete this stage of training. Once completed, and after a session to analyze the actions of each police officer, we moved on to the second exercise of training.



One this next phase, the exit from a building that has already been verified was simulated. Going out in the open involves some risks, „we can expect to have an isolated shooter, who can hit when we go out the door because we are grouped there. That's why the exit was made for the first time with two people, a breach was created, a corridor, a safe passage, and, with the domination of the terrain, progression in the terrain. The staircase is a very narrow place; there we are sitting targets. Here we have to react very quickly. Let's check everything around us; let's





eliminate a target or a shooter if it appears. We have worked a lot on situations like this. We don't meet with them all day, but we prepare because we have to be prepared, so they are part of the training program."

Speaking of the most common situations on the field, the ones that create the most complications are the football galleries. The policemen are helped by the good collaboration between them and the rest of the structures that intervene in these situations, the other colleagues from the Police, the Gendarmerie and the security companies. In case of incidents, the supporters who have become aggressive must be „search, identified and what each one has done must be established, while you still have to have control the entire mass





satisfaction that I was the only Romanian who was admitted there and I was not ashamed. At the end of the internship, I received the certificate, thanks, medal.

Practical training is a skeleton, the operator in the special training must be smart, to know how to adapt to the real situation what he learns in training”, says the fighter.

„Those outside have funds, training opportunities and weapons. They don’t have our native intelligence. And the dose of courage. From what I learned there, I implemented it here. We saw that the intervention times were reduced. We saw the results of the shootings in preparation. We did another kind of shootings, not only the linear one of 25 m. We switched to types of shootings that approach possible real situations. We’re trying to do nothing. We changed the training mentality. We train with the equipment with us, so that, when I’m on the street, I get used to fighting hand to hand with all the equipment, not like at the gym, in sportswear.

of supporters, being a bus 40-45 people. We were 5 fighters. Here was an excellent collaboration with the security company MSS, which had very disciplined and trained staff, and they were at our disposal. There was no pride in who is in charge and who is not, and they did their job very well. The transport of the supporters to the Municipal Police follows, which involves a convoy. Passing through the city also involves securing the convoy, because there is a possibility that an opposing supporter will throw a stone at the bus, for example, and the situation can become inflamed again. Ensuring the safety of the convoy, and many of the things we use in the field or in daily training, I learned during the training sessions I did abroad.”

This international experience of the fighter was translated into the pieces of training that the Arges policemen do. „I was lucky enough to participate in international missions. I even worked on security and protection and intervention, and I worked with operators from established units of European countries such as GSG9 (Grenzschutzgruppe 9 der Bundespolizei) in Germany, EKO Cobra (Einsatzkommando Cobra) in Austria, GIS (Gruppo intervento speciale) Italy, GIGN (National Gendarmerie Intervention Group) France. And when I worked with them, I had to be brought to the same level. It was very hard. But I had the



In a permanent state of preparation and learning, SAS Argeş fighters are constantly looking for and adapting other special structures’ tactics and intervention methods. They document, analyze what is

appropriate for the situation they may encounter in the field, are always aware of what is new and train for each new type of threat that may arise. However, the chances of meeting them in the field are minimal.





## Disaster Victims Identification Mobile Forensic Unit

Text & foto: I.G.P.R. – Centrul de Informare și Relații Publice

For the intervention and conduct of the investigation at the crime scene in case of disasters, the Romanian Police will use a mobile forensic unit „Disaster Victims Identification Mobile Forensic Unit” through the National Institute of Forensics. The truck was purchased, through non-reimbursable financing, within a project approved by the Swiss Government.

At the level of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, a project approved by the Swiss Government with non-reimbursable financing is underway, which will end at the end of April this year.

The project’s main objective is to strengthen the operational capacity of the National Institute of Criminology in terms of the automatic exchange of fingerprint data and the identification of victims from disasters. Therefore, the list approved by the Swiss side also included a mobile forensic unit entitled „DVI Mobile Forensic Unit.” The off-road vehicle has an engine, transmission and a set of technical driving capabilities adapted to rough terrain and adverse weather conditions, as well as equipment, accessories necessary for the specific requirements imposed for the deployment of the on-site research team and identification of victims in disasters (DVI -

disaster victims identification).

The on-site research activity in case of disasters is carried out in the most unforeseen atmospheric and field conditions, day or night.

The technical capacity to intervene in events considers our country’s geographical positioning, which determines the existence of four consecutive seasons, two of them strongly contrasting climatically (summer and winter), as well as the presence of a wide range of landforms, from sea to altitudes of 2,500 meters in the mountainous area.

Steep slopes, rugged or undeveloped roads, vegetation



and natural obstacles (water accumulations, natural or spontaneous, rivers, swamps, sandy areas, ice, snowy areas) are common impediments in practice, with situations where the research team has difficult access.

In order to intervene in such events, the body, the transmission assembly and the engine must be robust and durable so that the car is able to run in special climatic conditions, in safe conditions for both the on-site research team and the high samples. .

The car was purchased for 65,000 euros. Also, in order to ensure the safe transport of the relevant samples from the place of the event/incident, a box of resistant material was purchased, which was mounted on the outer ceiling, and for the transport of biological samples (human tissue, hair, fluids of body, blood), the car was equipped with a special car refrigeration system for transport and storage in optimal conditions (-180C) of biological

samples from the place where the incident/event took place.

The truck is equipped with front and rear towing systems (winch/ winch) and is equipped with chains for all wheels. For the full use of the „off-road” technical capabilities, 5 forensic scientists

attended a training course with a professional driver, this aspect being expressly provided by the acquisition contract. Training in rough terrain will continue this year.

The entire approach resulting from this activity of the Romanian Police is part of the European trend of creating DVI (Disaster Victim Identification) teams that use trucks equipped separately from the classic ones for on-site research, mainly focused on victim identification activities in the event of disasters, regardless of weather conditions.

Also, a major interest in this type of intervention (DVI) is



manifested by the General Secretariat of the ICPO-Interpol, which, between 13 and 15 May 2014, called on all member countries to participate in a workshop aimed at defining the capacity each country to participate in a joint intervention in the event of a major risk situation, as well as to harmonize the working procedures of each country in such cases.



# MULTI-PROTECTIVE COMBAT OUTFIT

## Romanian camouflage suit



Text: Marcella Dragan  
Photo: Research Agency for Military  
Technology and Technologies

As explained by Captain Doctor Engineer Todirică Cornel, Head of the Technology Laboratory for Indirect Protection of Forces within the Research Agency for Military Technology and Technologies, the realization of a new combat outfit was done in several stages, starting from the creation of the software for generating the camouflage model, making the material and, finally, making the costume itself.

### Camouflage pattern generation program

The program used to make the camouflage model is based on a mathematical algorithm that does not involve human subjectivity, being used as it was generated. It is specific to the territory of Romania and images from all over the country were used. The researchers from the Agency gathered images from all over the country and introduced them in the program. The result is a model that can be used anywhere in Romania, in any season, except in areas with uniform snow. „If there are surfaces without snow,

then it can be used in winter. It's a forest camouflage. We did not take into account a suit for the winter, but the pattern of shapes and colors can be generated very easily. The camouflage part, from the moment we have the images, in two days maximum the camouflage model is ready, available for printing. And a new, full uniform, ready to equip a group, a detachment, can be made, depending on the funds available, in about two months.”

The digital camouflage model is a model generated by software, according to a well-established algorithm, and using some

mathematical theories, in this case fractal theory. In terms of observation distances, the digital realization of this model, allows a wider range of camouflage. The use of mathematical algorithms allows the completion of a camouflage pattern that looks different at different distances. The camouflage pattern is generated in such a way as to ensure camouflage at multiple distances. It allows camouflage from 50 m and goes up to 100 m, even up to 200 m, a distance at which it is difficult to detect another soldier.

An obvious advantage over the old camouflage models; in those

cases, an artistic model was made and printed on the material. Then a soldier was dressed in that „uniform” and put at the distance that you created the camouflage for. If you wanted that suit to offer camouflage at 100 meters, then the soldier was positioned at that distance - and the camouflage pattern was changed, drowned until the soldier could no longer be spotted.

Another advantage is the number of colors, which can be set according to the requirements of the beneficiary, the more colors there are, the better the camouflage, but also involves higher costs. The number of

colors also depends on the printing method, because there are printing methods that do not allow more than five colors.

The camouflage suit is intended for camouflage in the visible and near-infrared range, for night vision devices that have an image intensifier. It goes a little beyond the visible sphere; it does not go to thermal infrared.

### Material

The material was made first. It has been subjected to all tests specific to the material: breaking, stretching, wear, the action of external agents - friction, water,







oils, chemicals, ultraviolet rays, color resistance to washing. „The material was fully tested two years ago and passed the specific tests for a material. When we made the initial material, we made some costumes that we wore in the polygons and in all kinds of activities, where we had work, even in the barracks. The colors don't go as fast as they do in the current suit.”

## Combat uniform

The idea of the project started four years ago, when the development of software began that automatically generates the camouflage pattern with the desired shape and colors, depending on the area of interest from which the photos are

introduced. „An experimental design of patterns, shapes and colors was made, which were applied on textile material. That was two years ago. Last year, there was a request from the special forces. In addition to the camouflage part, there were requirements regarding the protection of the elbows and knees and a certain ergonomics of the outfit, they wanted a combat, not a barracks outfit. They had certain requirements that were transposed into this outfit, with fewer pockets, ergonomically placed, and tilted to be accessed when the soldier was wearing a protective ballistic vest. The uniform brings some improvements over the current ones, such as the elastic extensions at the back of the

pants, which makes the waistband of the pants no longer move on the body, it always remaining in the same position. Basically, when the soldier sits down, the elastic materials placed at the back are stretched, as well as in the knee area, and the waistband and knee protectors remain motionless. Being an experimental model, we made two variants, to let the beneficiary choose which variant he wants. Both variants can be used. The suit also allows a series of adjustments that allow the fighter to adapt it as well as possible to his own body and the needs of the field. From the pocket it has an adjustment for the knee brace, it rises, it is positioned where the soldier needs it and it remains in that position all the time, being an

element of novelty in our country. There is also a knee adjustment behind the knee that allows the trousers to be fastened to the soldier's leg and moved with the body, when he sits or stands up, especially in combat conditions, where the most common positions are lying down or in the knee.

It was also a requirement for a tactical blouse. It is intended to be worn under a ballistic vest. The part that comes under the vest is made of a soft material, pleasant to the touch and that dries very quickly on the soldier's body, and only the sleeves and the collar that are similar to those of the jacket remain. The blouse can be worn when the temperatures are higher.”

Regarding the way in which this uniform was received by those who are going to use it, the captain, doctor engineer Todirică Cornel, said that those present at the reception of the costume were delighted. „Now we are in the closing phase of the project, and it will probably reach the beneficiary next month and be worn for at least two months. We will receive feedback that will be translated into the costume prototype. This was also the beneficiary's request to make a number of 12 pieces, updated according to the observations that will be made on this suit, and which will equip a team.”

This stage of making the prototype is the one that lasts the longest and involves the most costs. Once completed, this uniform pattern can be made using any camouflage pattern is desired or necessary. „We chose this model of camouflage in this suit and for financial reasons because it cost us quite a lot to make another model, with a different pattern. Having developed it, we agreed with the beneficiary to keep this



camouflage for the experimental suit, and if desired later another material can be made with another pattern. The material can be made entirely in the country. As for costs, in the experimental part, of the prototype, the costs are higher. If it went into production, I think it would come at the cost of the current costume.”

## What's next

„We will receive feedback from the beneficiary, make the prototype and approve the product. It can be done during this year. If we have funds available from the budget of the ministry allocated to this project, we can have the product approved. Funds

are needed to make the necessary material for the 12 uniforms, with this camouflage model or another, depending on the beneficiary's request, and for the actual creation of at least 12 costumes to be worn by the beneficiary. The most important thing is to have an approved product, so we can move on. This is now an experimental product.”

From this experimental model to changing the Army uniform is a long way, but the new suit could also be a model of national identity, especially now that Romania participates in a large number of multinational actions, where, most of the time, each Camouflage pattern is country specific.





# INVICTUS INVICTUS INVICTUS INVICTUS

## 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.



Foto: Gabriel Silviu Ratiu

### FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

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# Hero

## THE RESCUE DOG



The Romanian Police uses dogs to carry out various missions, from searching for traces, finding narcotics, dangerous or explosive substances, and saving human lives..

„A reliable friend, loyal, a comrade who does not leave you in hard times, and who is willing to give his life for his human”... this is how Valentin Gigolea describes his best colleague and partner, the German shepherd Hero, a qualified dog in the category „service dog, specialized in explosives detection”.

*Text & photo:  
Information and Public Relations Center*



The story of this tandem dog-instructor begins in 2011, when the deputy chief agent Valentin Gigolea, from the Pyrotechnic Office of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, took him over from the Sibiu Canine Center.

„I have had Hero since he was only five months old. I was his first instructor and I will definitely be the last. I raised him at home as a child up to a year, and he became a member of my family. „

According to the canine training instructor: „... in this work, the connection between the service dog and the trainer is essential. This is a language is known to the dog and its owner is born”.

Every dog is trained to express himself in a certain way, when he discovers what he is looking for. Learn how to signal the presence of explosive material. In these situations, the animal is taught to smell the explosive, trained to take a sitting position and not to touch, under any circumstances, the suspicious package. One command is enough, coming from its leader, and Hero instantly turns into a real soldier.

Thus, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the dog participates with the group (five police officers and a dog) in all activities and missions that, as diverse as they are dangerous.

„After three and a half hours of endurance and agility training and practical applications, complex training involving impeccable discipline, energy, elaborate exercises, pushing boundaries, courage, mental and physical endurance, made my hero, that's why I gave him this name, a real and professional police dog.







He is a brilliant and affectionate dog. Every morning he waits for me, with patience in his eyes but restless in his behavior, so that, after ensuring the grooming, cleaning, feeding of the other six members of the paddock, we can resume our daily exercises.

I proudly confess to you that he is the dog that was chosen to parade, together with me, at the parade on December 1, 2014", Valentin Gigolea also tells us.

These are some thoughts of a policeman who turned his love for animals into the most beautiful job he could embrace.

Valentin chose to always be around a devoted partner, loyal and full of joy, who shows the most sincere affection and who manages to change his mood, no matter how gray the day before he reached the paddock of Hero.





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