

EUFOR FORUM

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European Union Force in BiH



#143



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Commander EUFOR
Major General Florin-Marian Barbu

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Dorin Chirca

Forum Magazine Staff

Editor in chief
Captain Paul O' Donoghue

Layout
Jasmin Zeherović

Photographs contributed by
Sgt 1st Class Constantin Marian Balasescu

We also thank
EUFOR Multinational Battalion
EUFOR LOT Houses

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(HQ EUFOR)

Editor in Chief



Captain Paul O' Donoghue

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!

I am delighted to publish my third and final edition of EUFOR FORUM as editor in Chief.

The last few weeks were very busy ones for the EUFOR and for the Public Affairs Office. A lot of important events have been held including our Change of Command Ceremony and the welcoming of

our new Romania Commander.

In edition #143 you will find information about the Change of Command ceremony, articles on different contingents serving in EUFOR, our famous EOD dogs and a brief overview of the Edelweiss Raid, a tough mountaineering competition in Austria.

I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities for EUFOR Althea.

EUFOR Forum is about the troops and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle and memories of your time spent in BiH as part of Operation Althea. So as always, we invite you to share your experiences and have those experiences recorded in print and shared digitally. Euforpio@eufor.europa.eu if you have anything that you would like covered or have an article or photograph you would like to share.

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Residents near the training areas may notice increased activity. Rest assured that these are designed to ensure that EUFOR pilots are fully prepared to assist the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina during emergencies, even in the most extreme and challenging weather conditions. Have you seen them in action?

#EUFOR20YEARS #EUFORALTHEA #StrongerTogether #EUFORBiH



89 2 comments

Winter Landscape with EUFOR Helicopters
Romanian helicopters under EUFOR command are carrying out routine training exercises by day and night and in all weather conditions. These exercises include landings, medical evacuations, and transportation drills. Residents near the training areas may notice increased activity. Rest assured that these exercises are designed to ensure that EUFOR pilots are fully prepared to assist the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina during emergencies, even in the most extreme and challenging weather conditions. Have you seen them in action?

#EU #EUFORYOU #EUFOR20YEARS #EUFORBiH



1 1 3 552

At the invitation of Minister Zukan Helez, the command team of EUFOR in participated in the official ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

YouTube



The President of the Czech Republic, Petr Pavel, paid a visit to EUFOR

Visit of the Czech President to EUFOR

On Friday, 24 January, the President of the Czech Republic paid a visit to EUFOR at Camp Butmir. During his visit, he met with the EUFOR Commander, Major General Barbu, and the Czech contingent stationed at the camp.



136 likes

German Contingent Change of Command in Camp Butmir
In the presence of the EUFOR leadership team, the German contingent held its Change of Command ceremony. On this occasion, the EUFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Major General Florin Marian Barbu welcomed Lieutenant General Bernd Schütt, the Commander of the Bundeswehr Joint Forces Operations Command Germany, and Lieutenant General Alfons Mais, Chief of the German Army to EUFOR HQ. During the discussions, the importance of the German contribution to the mission of EUFOR OP ALTHEA was highlighted. The outgoing German Senior National Representative, Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Klaus Dieter Richter received the EUFOR Service Medal for OP ALTHEA and the German Badge of Honor for EUFOR OP ALTHEA as a sign of recognition and appreciation for his outstanding service. The Change of Command of the German contingent ended with an excellent performance by the Air Force Band Münster. The selection of music played was appreciated by all the EUFOR personnel present at the concert.

Change of Command Ceremony



Outgoing COM EUFOR, Operation Commander & New COM EUFOR

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On 21 January 2025, EUFOR held their Change of Command ceremony to mark the handover of command from Major General László Sticz of the Hungarian Defence Forces to Major General Florin Barbu of the Romanian Armed Forces.

The ceremony was held in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo and was attended by prominent military and civilian members of the national and

international community. The EU Operation Commander for the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant General Hubert Cottureau presided over the ceremony. The event marked the end of the Hungarian command year of EUFOR and the beginning of the Romanian one.

The ceremony included a number of awards to outgoing Major General

László Sticz from the Operation Commander EUFOR, Minister of Defence BiH, Mr. Zukan Helez, and the Italian Ambassador to BiH, H.E Sarah Eti Catellani, the Romanian CHOD, General Gheorghiuță Vlad and DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso. Speeches were delivered by the EU Special Representative, H.E Luigi Soreca, Operation Commander EUFOR and by both outgoing and incoming commanders. The Armed Forces of BiH band played music throughout the ceremony to an excellent standard. The ceremony was closed with a military march.

In his address, Major General László Sticz highlighted the various activities EUFOR had completed during his time in command. Such activities included the deployment of the Reserve Force on two separate occasions, in April and September. He also mentioned the work EUFOR had done in strengthening its ability to assist local authorities and organizations to respond to incidents such as



Signing Over Command



COS EUFOR Leads Troops March

the flooding in October or search and rescue operations. He thanked both the national and international colleagues that had supported him during his time in command of EUFOR and outlined the importance of such support.

The Lieutenant General Hubert Cottreau thanked Major General László Sticz for his leadership and professionalism and congratulated the Hungarian Contingent on the excellent work done. He also expressed his good wishes and support to the incoming EUFOR Commander, Major General Florin Barbu and the Romanian contingent.

Major General Florin Barbu congratulated Major General László Sticz on his achievements, highlighting his dedication and professionalism. He outlined his anticipation to take over as Commander of EUFOR and noted that he looked forward to the coming year.

EU Special Representative, H.E. Luigi Soreca, addressed the ceremony beginning with his



COM EUFOR Addresses the Ceremony

thanks to Major General László Sticz for his hard work and support in the past year. He also wished the new commander, Major General Florin Barbu great success during his tenure.

National representatives, members of the diplomatic corps and members of the international community attended. Those included Chairperson of the Joint Commission for Defence and Security of BiH, Mr Jasmin Imamović, Parliamentary Military

Commissioner of BiH, Mr. Boško Šiljegović, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, Mr. Kemal Ademović, Deputy Minister of Security Ivica Bošnjak, Hungarian Deputy Minister of Defense, Mr Tamás Vargha, State Secretary in the Romanian Ministry of Defence, Mrs. Simona Cojocaru, High Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Schmidt, Chief of the General Staff of the Moldavian National Army, General Vitalie Micov, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Hungarian Defense Forces, Lieutenant General Ferenc Kajári, Deputy Commander JFC Naples, Lieutenant General Peter K. Scott and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Matthew Valas.

The ceremony marked the official handover of command from the Hungarian Contingent to the Romanian Contingent. All of us at EUFOR wish Major General László Sticz and the departing members of the Hungarian contingent a safe return home and all the success with their future careers.

Commander of the European Union Force in BiH



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Major General Florin-Marian Barbu

has dedicated over three decades to distinguished service in the Romanian Armed Forces. Born on November 12, 1969, in Câmpina, Prahova County, he embarked on his military journey in 1984, enrolling in the Military High School. By 1991, he had graduated from the Field Artillery Military School, laying the foundation for a respected career marked by leadership, international missions, and strategic expertise.

From his early days as a Platoon Leader in the early 1990s to commanding the 29th Artillery Regiment by 2002, Major General Barbu demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence. His career trajectory reflects a series of increasingly demanding roles, including serving as Commander of the 9th Infantry Brigade and later as Commander of the Land Forces Operational Component. Along the way, he honed his strategic acumen at institutions like the National Defense University and through specialized training such as NATO's Field Artillery Course in France and the Combined/Joint Force Land Component Commander Course at US Army War College in the USA. During his career, he participated in various multinational exercises and training programs at operational and strategic levels as STEADFAST PINNACLE.

Internationally, Major General Barbu contributed to global security, serving as a Liaison Officer for the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) during Operation Iraqi Freedom and later supporting NATO operations

in Afghanistan as a Staff Officer at ISAF HQ. These missions underscored his ability to adapt to complex, multinational environments.

His contributions have been recognized with numerous awards (five emblems of honor and five emblems of merit), including the Emblem of Honor of the Romanian Armed Forces, the Emblem of Merit "In Service of Romanian Armed Forces", the Order "The Military Virtue" in the rank of Officer, with military insignia and multiple distinctions for his years of dedicated service. Known for his leadership, strategic insight, and commitment to innovation, he has shaped the operational effectiveness of the Romanian Armed Forces, particularly in his current role as Chief of the Operations Directorate, a position he has held since December 5, 2022.

Beyond his professional achievements, Major General Barbu is a proud father of an adult daughter.

International Medal Parade



Flags March on Parade

EUFOR's most recent International Medal Parade was an opportunity to not only decorate departing troops and civilians but to also thank them for their hard work, dedication and professionalism during their tours.

Troops and civilians from nine different countries were awarded the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea in recognition of their service to the mission and peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative of the European Union awards the medal for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. It is tradition for the medal

to be worn for the whole day after it is awarded.

Hailing from Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Romania, the recipients represented a diverse group highlighting the international cooperation and friendship among the different countries in EUFOR. Such diversity presents EUFOR with a variety of different views and mixtures of cultures that serves to strengthen the mission's ability to work in Bosnia and Herzegovina and better assist the population.

The leadership of EUFOR handed

out the medals, those being the Commander, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff.

While the awardees of the medal are to be commended and praised for their outstanding dedication to peace, EUFOR would also like to acknowledge and thank their families. Without the support of loved ones at home, missions such as EUFOR Operation Althea would not be possible. The support each person has at home amplifies their ability to carry out their tasks in the mission and makes EUFOR stronger. We thank all EUFOR personnel's families and loved ones for their support and assistance.



DCOM EUFOR Presents Medal



COS EUFOR Hands Out Medal

Multinational Battalion Transfer of Authority



Battalion in Formation

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Outgoing and Incoming MNBN Commanders

Since our last edition, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) of EUFOR held a Transfer of Authority ceremony to mark the change of command from Lt. Col László Nagy of the Hungarian Defence Forces to Lt. Col Vasile Ardeleanu of the Romanian Armed Forces.

During the command year of Lt. Col László Nagy, the EUFOR MNBN had performed to an excellent standard across a variety of tasks. Their dedication and professionalism were a direct reflection of the leadership provided by Lt. Col László Nagy and were a credit to EUFOR. As well as conducting large-scale combined exercises such as our annual "Quick Response" exercise, the MNBN were also

at the forefront to provide assistance during flooding in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the Transfer of Authority ceremony, Lt. Col László Nagy thanked members of the MNBN for their support, work ethic, professionalism and dedication throughout the year of command.

He expressed his own sadness at departing such an excellent group and hopes to see them again in the future. He wished his successor, Lt. Col Vasile Ardeleanu, great success in his mission and assured him that the MNBN would support him at all times.

COM EUFOR, Major General Florin Barbu thanked the outgoing commander for his work, leadership and



Raising the EU Flag

unwavering support. He noted the importance of the MNBN to the EUFOR mission and the importance of good leadership of such an important asset. He welcomed Lt. Col Vasile Ardeleanu and wished him a successful command.

The parade included a number of awards from COM EUFOR to members of the MNBN. The awards noted the exceptional dedication, leadership and judgement while encountering challenging tasks.

The parade finished with a military march consisting of troops and vehicles from the MNBN. As both a mark of respect to the outgoing commander and a welcome to the new commander, the performance of the troops during the march was of the highest standard.

With the closing of the ceremony, so ended the command year of Lt. Col László Nagy. EUFOR thanks him for his unwavering dedication to peace and his excellent leadership of the MNBN.

EUFOR also welcomes Lt. Col Vasile Ardeleanu and wishes him a successful command.



Troops of the MNBN Paying Respects



Romanian URO VAMTAC on Parade

Albanian Soldiers Join the EUFOR Multinational Battalion



Raising the Albanian Flag at Camp Butmir

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Integration and Flag Raising Ceremony

On Friday 14 February 2025, the Albanian flag was proudly raised at Camp Butmir Sarajevo marking the integration of the Albanian Armed Forces platoon within the EUFOR Althea Multinational Battalion in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the presence of Deputy EUFOR Commander Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso, the Albanian troops were welcomed by Commander Multinational Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Vasile Ardeleanu who wished them every success.

Albanian Armed Forces

Emerging from the complex post-Soviet landscape, The Albanian Armed Forces (AAF) have consistently sought to build a future of peace and progress, while maintaining its integrity and navigating challenges with resolve. After the fall of communism, Albania's military faced severe challenges, including outdated equipment and limited operational capacity. This highlighted the urgent need for military reform. In response, Albania embarked on a comprehensive restructuring of its armed forces, focusing on

modernization, downsizing, and alignment with NATO standards. This process culminated in Albania's NATO accession in 2009, marking a turning point in its defense policy and international engagement.

Albanian Armed Forces personnel have served in various international and European peace support operation roles, including peacekeeping, training local security forces, and supporting stabilization efforts. Their contributions have been well-regarded, reflecting Albania's growing military professionalism and its commitment to international peace operations.



Flags March on Parade

Albanian Armed Forces personnel have served in various international and European peace support operation roles, including peacekeeping, training local security forces, and supporting stabilization efforts.

Albania's military contributions to missions such as EUFOR Althea serve as a testament to its dedication to collective security and its readiness to integrate more deeply into European defense initiatives. These values mirror the core principles of Operation ALTHEA, where progress, cooperation, and impartiality are critical to our success.

All of us here in EUFOR Operation Althea are delighted to welcome our Albanian comrades and look forward to working with them and learning about their rich history and culture.



Albanian Platoon Leader is Welcomed by COM MNBN



DCOM EUFOR Adresses the Ceremony

LOT Houses of EUFOR: Sensors on the Pulse of the Population



of security with their presence in a residential area. Sometimes a resident will show up at the door with a request. The EUFOR LOT members also come into direct contact with the civilian population in so-called ad hoc discussions: for example, on foot patrols or in a café.

Mine belt across the country

From time to time LOT House soldiers have to cross the wide mine belt that stretches across the entire country along the former main battle line of the war. EUFOR LOT Teams regularly visit primary schools to explain to the children how they should behave if they find a mine: When a mine is found, the children should stop moving and not touch anything.

The LOT's maintain contact with the population, authorities and local authorities and monitor the mood: the Liaison and Observation Teams - in short: LOT's. The LOT's form an integral part of the EU mission EUFOR Operation Althea. With their presence, they show that EUFOR is the point of contact for all those who are concerned about their security.

Safe and Secure Environment

The task of the LOTs is to provide updates in real time from their respective areas. This enables the EUFOR commander to monitor, assess and react to the situation throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina before threats arise. The LOTs are sensors and impartial observers; they are the "eyes and ears" on the pulse of the population.

The soldiers are supported in their mission by local translators who translate conversations and texts from Bosnian into English and vice versa. To do this, the translator's monitor relevant websites and social networks to get an idea of the different events and activities in their local area. Every day, each LOT house reports on the daily results to the EUFOR headquarters in Sarajevo.

20 LOT houses of different nations

There are in total 20 EUFOR LOT houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are spread over five areas. They are maintained by different nations: there are German, Slovakian, Austrian, Romanian, Swiss, Turkish and Italian LOT houses. EUFOR's opened its newest LOT House in September in Drvar.

The role of the LOT soldiers is to convey a feeling

It is of utmost importance for everyone in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be aware of the still lingering dangers of mines and other explosive remnants of war because they still pose a mortal threat to the population, especially to vulnerable groups like small children. EUFOR is committed to a safe and secure environment (SASE) and to a mine free BiH.

Local Community Relationships

There is also regular contact with local priests, school directors and hospitals - in other words, with practically all those responsible for a safe and secure environment. EUFOR has built good relationships with people across the local communities in BiH and LOT's continue to cultivate new relationships. It is important that the EU is still present on the ground with soldiers. 24 nations are involved in the EU mission.



'Edelweiss Raid'

Race across the Mountains



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The ability to fight and survive in mountainous terrain has across history lead to unimaginable feats and great victories over adversaries. The ability of Hannibal to traverse the Alps and cross into Northern Italy during the Second Punic War was not only a major military feat but also an indictment of the advantage an army can achieve when it has the ability to conquer mountainous terrain. Across Europe, mountain warfare or more the ability to operate in mountainous terrain has been key to gaining advantages over adversaries. Similar to other military skills, mountain warfare has a host of military competitions to test each nation's troops and so we come to inspiration for this article, introducing the "Edelweiss Raid" competition.

The "Edelweiss Raid" is a biennial race that takes place in the Austrian Alps. Over two days, each team must cover 40 kilometers of tough Austrian Alps terrain, including a cumulative elevation gain, all while

completing a variety of military tasks.

The competition is organized by the 6th Mountain Brigade of the Austrian Armed Forces. The 6th Mountain Brigade specializes in operations in mid-range and high mountainous areas. It performs tasks in the context of a European mountain warfare centre and coordinates the training of the mountain-mobile units of the Austrian Armed Forces.

Teams consisting of eight soldiers, with at least one member qualified to lead the squad in alpine terrain, tackle the challenging course. Each team must ensure they carry a litter of equipment designed to assist in the various tests and in the case of a real life casualty situation. As one can imagine, besides the usual war fighting equipment such as a rifle etc., competitors carry with them skis, ski poles, significantly extra warm clothing, climbing harness and avalanche probes to name but a few.

The test vary but include abseiling, avalanche victim search, reconnaissance, sledge pulling, live firing and orienteering. The tests are designed to challenge each team in both the traditional skills of soldiering but also in the new environment and the skills necessary to thrive in it. Each competitor who successfully traverse the course and tests is awarded the "Edelweiss Raid" silver pin.

In 2019, teams from outside of Europe joined the challenge thus expanding the competition into a more international sphere. The competition is not alone in terms of military mountaineering challenges for military members. The Patrouille des Glaciers, organized by the Swiss Army and a skiing championship called CaSTA, organized by the Italian Army's Mountain Troops are two other notable competitions embraced by members of the military from all over the world.

EUFOR's Four Legged Warriors



Beryl at Work

EUFOR's EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team from the Hungarian contingent have been fortunate to be supplemented with two of man's best friend Beryl and Málna. Our furry, four-legged canine friends form part of the EOD team as an EDD (Explosive Detection Dog). Their skills and presence have formed a vital and valuable asset to the EOD team and have been a welcomed presence in EUFOR.

The EDD capability OF THE Hungarian Defence Forces was founded in 2006, mainly for a role in the Afghanistan mission. The basic idea was to supplement the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) capability with the EDD module.

The dogs were trained with a conflict-free method, which means that they are thinking of the training as a form of playing. All the dogs were trained by their respective dog handlers on a one to one basis. The detection dogs are capable of identifying the scent of approximately 30 different types of explosives, like TNT, SEMTEX, TATP and other Home Made Explosives. The dog handlers never work alone and are always part of an EOD Team.

Their main role was in Afghanistan,

but they are taking part in different tasks in Hungary, such as vehicle search, area and building search, securing VIPs. They are mainly part of a static or temporary Check Point.

Their last deployment has been conducted in Lebanon, but since 2024, EUFOR Althea Operation is the first mission again where they serve. In this mission, one of their main tasks is to support the activities of the EOD team with checking of buildings, open areas, vehicles, persons, packages, securing VIPs and to be part of the base defense, due to these activities the EOD operations have

been advanced and become more effective.

Before a dog can become an EDD, the dog must undergo a 4-month basic training. Furthermore, all the dogs must complete a 30-day test period where it will be decided if the dog is suitable for being a service dog. While it takes 4 months for a dog to undergo the training, it takes approximately 1 year to have the necessary experience for the job.

The EDDs usually start their training at 1-1.5 years old, and in general, they have service until 7-8 years old. Upon retirement, they mostly spend their time with the dog handler they worked with. If it is not possible, they will get an adopting family.

It is important to note that the EDDs operate with a passive indication, which means they are not allowed to get in physical contact with the explosives nor the explosive containers, but they have to have a clear change in behavior to indicate the presence of explosives. The service dogs are able to work in almost every environment.

Beryl and Málna will complete their tour of duty in March and will return home for some well-earned rest.



Carefully Assessing the Ground

Physical Training in Camp Butmir



Warm Up

Turkish Armed Forces Ensuring Physical Readiness in EUFOR Operation Althea

As part of the Multinational Battalion in EUFOR Operation Althea, the Turkish Armed Forces stationed at Camp Butmir engaged in rigorous physical training throughout February to maintain peak operational readiness. This training is not merely about physical fitness, it is a crucial component of ensuring that the soldiers are both physically and mentally prepared for any tasks assigned to them while fostering a strong sense of teamwork.

By prioritizing physical fitness and teamwork, the Turkish contingent at Camp Butmir ensures that its personnel are always ready to uphold the mission's objectives, demonstrating both strength and unity in their role within EUFOR Operation Althea. Through rigorous and continuous physical training, all EUFOR soldiers remain prepared for any mission, contributing to the overall stability and security of the region.

#StrongerTogether



Core Work

15



Block Run

Polish Armed Forces 1st Masurian Artillery Brigade A Brief History



Howitzers on the move

In this article we will explore the origin units of our Polish Colleagues, in this case the 1st Masurian Artillery Brigade. The Brigade is located in north-eastern Poland in the Masurian region, a region decorated with lakes and forests. The Brigade is part of the 16th Pomeranian Mechanized Division and has a primary task to be

prepared to defend this part of Poland and Suwalki Gap because it is a land bridge to Baltic States.

History:

The unit itself while formed in 1993, is steeped in tradition far beyond the 1990's. The unit is a combination of a host of predecessors and draws its traditions and culture from them. Starting with the Infantry Artillery Position Company from 1810-1813 up to the 1st Artillery Specialist Training Center from 1989-1993, the unit has a vast amount of associated history.

Its predecessors the 1st infantry Artillery Position Company took part in the Napoleonic Wars that encompassed much of Europe at the time with the Prussian Army. Another predecessor of the unit, the 1st Heavy Artillery Regiment saw action during the First World War and during the beginning of the Second World War. Fighting in France and the USSR against the Nazi's followed until the eventual victory by the allies.

Firepower:

The 1st Masurian Artillery Brigade boasts a significant fire power ability with 155mm self-propelled howitzers and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems. The unit operate



K239 Chunmoo MLRS in the Field

the 155mm self-propelled howitzers K9 Thunder, a South Korean made piece. The K9 Thunder is an armored vehicle armed with a 155mm cannon capable of striking targets at distances over 40 kilometers. The unit also operates the K239 Chunmoo MLRS. The Chunmoo system can fire rockets of varying calibers, including 130mm, 227mm, 239mm, and 600mm, with ranges of 36km, 80km, and 290km. Its versatility makes it suitable for diverse operational requirements. Key features of the K239 Chunmoo include high precision targeting, rapid deployment within five minutes, fast reloading, and tactical mobility, providing ground forces with enhanced operational flexibility.

Deployments:

The unit has a rich history of overseas deployments in modern times. Their deployments have encompassed different parts of the world and types of missions. They have served with the United Nations in Syria, the UNDOF mission. The unit has deployed with the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the unit has also taken part in NATO missions to Afghanistan and Kosovo. A wide range of experience and dedication has been seen since its inception in 1993.

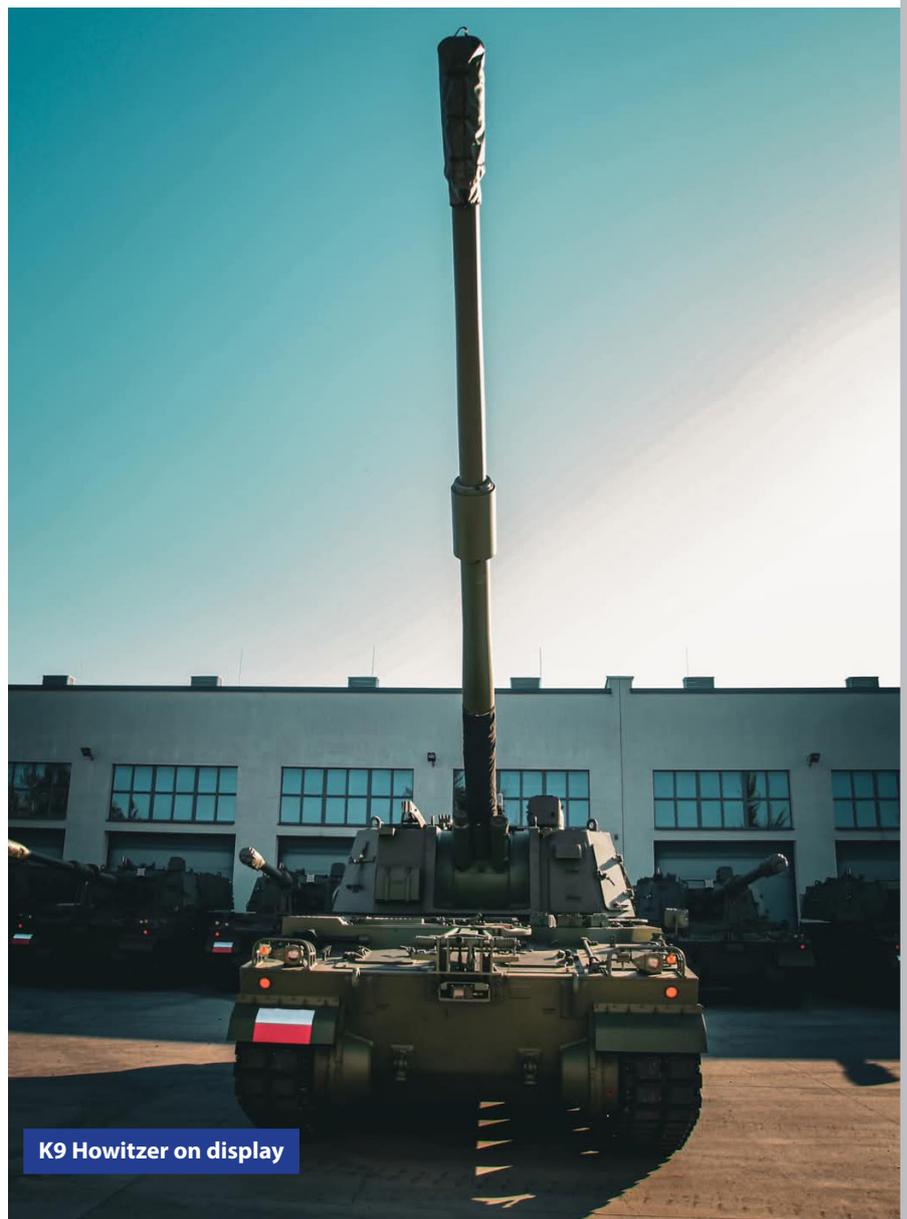
Traditions:

As is the norm with military units, the emblem of a unit is indicative of its history, home and peoples. The 1st Masurian Artillery Brigade is no different. Its emblem is the black cormorant placed on a shield with 2 colors: red and green, which mean heavy artillery. The black cormorant is a bird under protection in Masurian region.

As with many other artillery units, the 1st Masurian Artillery Brigade celebrate Saint Barbara's Day each year on the 4th December. Saint Barbara is a popular saint perhaps best known as the patron saint of armorers, artillerymen, miners and others who works with explosives because of her legend's association with lightning.



K239 Chunmoo MLRS



K9 Howitzer on display

Romanian Armed Forces: A Key Pillar in Euro-Atlantic Security

Navigating a Complex Security Landscape

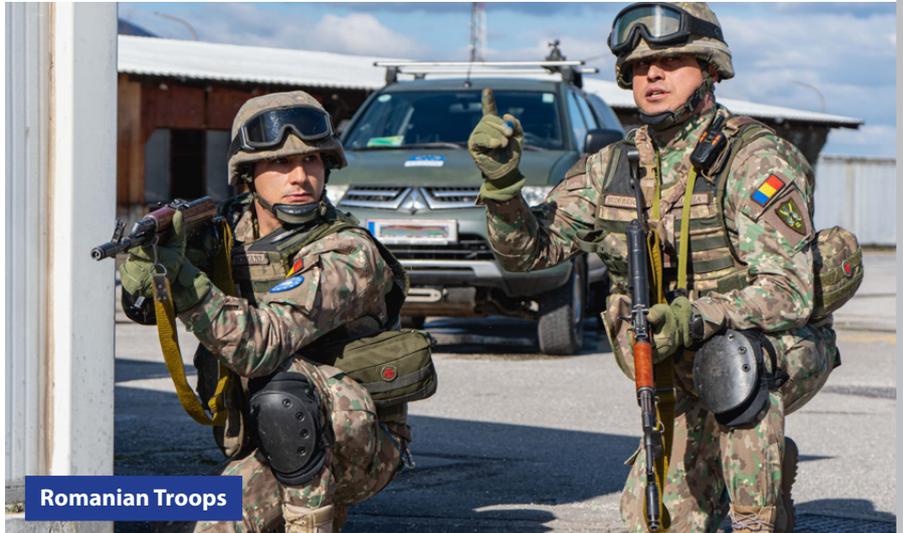
Today's security environment is more volatile and unpredictable than at any point in the last decades. Against this backdrop, risk assessment and threat analysis remain core activities of the Romanian Armed Forces, alongside the constant adaptation of Romanian defensive capabilities to ensure a timely and appropriate response to any operational challenges that may arise.

Shaping the Future – Force Development and Modernization

The Romanian Armed Forces continue to strengthen their force structure under a comprehensive and forward-looking plan.

The revision of the 2040 Armed Force Program will define critical priorities, including capability development, equipment distribution, infrastructure upgrades, and materiel stockpiling.

A core objective remains the consolidation of Romania's deterrence and defence posture, ensuring Romania is ready to meet future security demands.



Romanian Troops

A Strong NATO Ally and European Security Contributor

Romania is fully integrated into NATO's planning processes and remains a key contributor to Euro-Atlantic security. Romania advocates for a stronger European Defence within the transatlantic framework, where responsibility, complementarity, and interoperability guide its actions.

Romanian Armed Forces are active in almost all EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) military missions and operations. A notable example is Romanian major contribution to EUFOR Althea,

a mission vital to the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Western Balkans remain a national priority, and Romania plays a significant role in fostering a secure environment in the region.

Defending Romania and Its Allies

Romania is confident in its ability to carry out its fundamental missions: safeguarding Romania's sovereignty, independence, unity, territorial integrity, and constitutional democracy.

Beginning January 2025, Romania increased its footprint within NATO's enhanced Forward Presence. The Romanian Armed Forces contributes to three of the eight NATO Battle Groups deployed on the Eastern Flank:

- Slovakia: Anti-tank detachment
- Bulgaria: Reconnaissance detachment
- Poland: Continued air defence detachment

With over 1,000 soldiers currently deployed globally, Romania actively promotes both regional and international stability.

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Romanian Marines

Leadership Role in EU Operations

Romania's leadership continues to expand within EU military structures. In addition to commanding the EU Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA), Romania has now assumed command of EUFOR Althea, the largest CSDP operation in the Western Balkans.

In January, Major General Florin Barbu officially took command of the EUFOR mission, marking a significant milestone - Romania is now simultaneously leading two of the EU's eight military missions and operations.

To reinforce EUFOR Althea, the Romanian Armed Forces deployed the "Dacian Pumas" Detachment with approximately 100 soldiers and four IAR-330 helicopters, carrying out airlift, reconnaissance, and MEDEVAC missions. Over this year, Romania coordinates more than 1,000 troops from 24 contributing nations, underlining its role as a strategic partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina's stability.

Romania: A Trusted NATO Ally

Romania's commitment to NATO is demonstrated through:

- Contributions to the enhanced Forward Presence in the North of NATO's Eastern Flank;
- Active participation in tailored Forward Presence efforts in the Black Sea Region;
- Engagement in NATO operations;
- Continuous support to Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and Western Balkan partner countries.



Romanian Armoured Personnel Carrier

A Strong Reputation Abroad

The Romanian Armed Forces are one of the most credible ambassadors of the country's international image. Romanian service members are recognized across NATO and international coalitions for their professionalism, leadership, and adaptability.

Romanian troops' dedication and expertise in missions abroad significantly enhance Romania's global reputation as a trustworthy and capable security partner.

Agile. Capable. Adaptable.

Whether operating independently or as part of the NATO framework, the Romanian Armed Forces remain agile, fully prepared, and adaptable to execute the full range of Allied operations. In an increasingly unstable security environment, Romania stands ready to defend both Romanian citizens and its Allied partners from emerging threats.



Paratroops at Work



The IAR-330 Puma is a Romanian licence-built version of SA 330 Puma, manufactured by I.A.R. Braşov factory.

Starting with 1999, in cooperation with Elbit Systems, the Pumas were upgraded into few variants. One of the variants is the IAR-330 M, a modernized transport version with a weather radar without embedded weapons, but with mounted ones and self defence countermeasures. In transport configuration, can carry up to 12 full equipped soldiers materials inside cargo and can do sling and hoist operation. One other version is the IAR L-RM, having the latest upgraded NVG and Brightnight systems.

The Romanian Aviation Detachment Dacian Pumas joined the EUFOR ALTHEA operations in order to accomplish the MEDEVAC service 24/7, reconnaissance, transport and other assigned missions with IAR-330 Puma M and L-RM version.