

Security Developments in the Wider Black Sea

General Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă, Chief of Defence Romania

Our world is experiencing an unprecedented level of complexity in terms of challenges to national and international security. In the Euro-Atlantic area, we are confronted with multiple challenges and threats – hybrid, conventional and asymmetric in nature, which are interconnected – from the North Atlantic to the Black Sea Region, from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. This is an excerpt from the Romanian ChoD's remarks. Please read the full article in ESD 3/2018.

During the last two decades, the Black Sea region gradually transformed itself from an area defined by win-win opportunities, to one of a zero-sum game. In this region, economic, political and military interests always collided, while a number of mechanisms and tools have been established to facilitate dialogue, cooperation and understanding between the various actors at regional level and in the wider context of NATO and the EU.

The rise of violent non-state actors and criminal networks builds up additional pressure for the region. Other issues of concern are related to threats generated by ongoing crises in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Balkan region serves as a transit area for radical elements heading towards Western Europe and there is the risk that such radical elements could plan terrorist acts.

Against this background, we consider that the Black Sea Region will remain an area defined by a complex, unstable security environment and by multiple security challenges, which increase the risks and threats not only for the riparian countries, Romania included, but also for the entire NATO Eastern flank.

In our view, the security developments in 2014 marked a turning point in NATO's approach to collective defence. NATO decided to address the security concerns and adopt an enhanced deterrence and defence posture as a means to protect and defend the Allied territories and populations.

Solidarity is NATO's centre of gravity. NATO decided to stay strong and united, in agreement with the principle of indivisibility of security of its member states. The

essence of an enhanced deterrence and defence posture on the Eastern Flank can only emphasise the cohesion and unity of

NATO members and underline that any action against any ally will be treated as an attack on all allies.

The implementation of the Forward Presence is progressing well. The multinational battle groups are operational in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. As part of Romania's commitment to the allied decisions, we are contributing a company-level



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unit to the US-led battle group operating in Poland, alongside US and UK soldiers, within the enhanced forward presence framework.

There are also positive developments in implementing the forward presence in the Black Sea Region, in all land, air and maritime initiatives. The Multinational Brigade South-East based in Craiova will reach final operating capability later in 2018. A number of allies contribute with staff and with affiliated troops to train together. In the Air Combined Training Initiative in 2017 the United Kingdom, Canada and Portugal already contributed to enhanced air policing in the region and trained with our air forces, flying allied fighter jets from Romanian air bases.

In the maritime domain, a regional maritime coordination function for the Black sea was established in Allied Maritime Command, supporting coordination among current contributing naval forces HQs. Also, the NATO Combined Maritime Framework for cooperation in training, interoperability and maritime situational awareness has been established. In the area of training and with the objective of increasing interoperability, the Combined Joint Enhanced Training, designed as a regional platform for cooperation through participation in exercises and training activities, keeps progressing towards ensuring a continuous allied presence in the region.

However, the security situation from the Baltic Sea through the Black Sea and into the Mediterranean is not seen merely as a regional issue, but it is of concern to the entire Alliance. NATO has pledged to protect the Eastern Flank and the eFP and tFP are linked, building on a continuous and coherent set of NATO measures on the whole Eastern Flank.

To contribute to the security of the Alliance as a whole, Romania has made a very responsible commitment by strengthening NATO's deterrent and defence stance, participating in missions and operations, supporting NATO partners and building new capabilities.



(Photos: Romanian Armed Forces)

Romania's security relies on developing the national instruments of power, as well as on our membership in NATO and the European Union, and on our strategic partnerships. It goes without saying that allied deterrence and defence is based on the capabilities of the individual member states, which is why we believe that defence begins at home.

Turning to fulfilling commitments assumed by Romania in NATO and EU, the Armed Forces contribute to missions and operations in Afghanistan, the Western Balkans and Africa to promote international security and stability. We stand committed to the stabilisation of Afghanistan where Romanian Armed Forces will continue to be a major contributor in 2018. We also support the international community's efforts for the security and stability of Iraq and Syria, and for the neutralisation of DAESH and terrorist and extremist organisations.

More than 26,000 Romanian soldiers have been sent to theatre of operations in Afghanistan over the last 15 years. The Resolute Support Mission continues to be the main operational priority for us in terms of contributions to operations abroad. Romania is the fourth NATO contributing state, with almost 700 soldiers deployed to Afghanistan.

Turning to our priorities in 2018, I want to emphasise that it is a very important year for the Romanian Armed Forces. Our objectives are to keep developing effective defence capabilities, to respond to all types of threats including hybrid ones, continue im-

plementing our commitments within NATO and EU and provide the forces for missions and operations abroad, provide support to civil authorities for crisis situation management and for increasing resilience. In the larger perspective, the inter-institutional cooperation has greatly increased, in terms of operating and training and conducting exercises together.

In order to effectively counter all challenges, the Romanian Armed Forces aim at developing a modern force structure, better correlated to the challenges we face, based on the resources allocated for defence. Such an example is the new Special Operations Command, which has just been established on March 1, 2018 as part of a deeper transformation of the Romanian SOF.

Another example is related to cyber defence. Recognising cyberspace as an operational domain underlines the need to synchronise cyberspace operation effects with other effects and capabilities of the operation, in order to achieve synergy in a joint environment. We are in the process of establishing a Cyber Defence Command which is to achieve its initial capability by the end of 2018. Additionally, we develop cyber capabilities in accordance with the assumed NATO capability targets and we participate in NATO and national cyber exercises.

Through all our contributions to maintaining peace and stability, Romania is recognised today as a reliable and robust partner in the allied and international community.

Technology

New Russian Hypersonic Missile

This morning the traditional 9 May (Victory) Parade has taken place on the Red Square. The parade is traditionally used to present new technologies, some of which are still in the development stage. However, mock-ups are not part of it, but what drives or is driven over the course is at least already in the testing stage.

One of these new “revolutionary” weapons, one that Putin already praised in a speech to senior officials in March, deserves special mention. Two MiG-31K (Rot 92

and 93) each carried a Kh-47M2 missile – called “Kinzhal” (dagger) – on the central weapon station today. Capable of a range of approximately 2,000 kilometres, at a top speed of Mach 10, the missile is allegedly able to manoeuvre even in hypersonic conditions. This seems surprising because Kinzhal is actually an airbreathing cruise missile with so-called scramjet technology and from the visible signature an adaptation of the ballistic surface-to-surface missile “Iskander”, which has at hypersonic speed the cruise-missile-typical flat flight profile.



Optionally, Kinzhal – like Iskander – is said to be capable of carrying a thermonuclear warhead.

George Mader

Fletcher Unveiled at SOFEX

(df) Arnold Defense unveiled a concept named the “Fletcher” 2.75-inch/70mm Weapon System at SOFEX. The Fletcher Laser Guided Rocket Launcher System can be mounted on land-based military vehicles as well as, potentially, marine and littoral platforms. Traditionally, 2.75-inch rocket systems have been used as an area suppression weapon, ordinarily deployed by both fixed and rotary wing aviation assets. The company has now somehow turned this concept on its head with the advancement of laser guided rocket technology to meet the modern demands of land-based, vehi-



cle mounted and dismounted asymmetric warfare, for special and conventional forces.

Fletcher employs an existing suite of guidance modules, rockets and warheads

which are already used and readily available. It is a fully integrated weapon system that can engage targets at ranges up to 3.1 miles, giving land forces capability that previously required the deployment of air assets.

“Fletcher is a very exciting new development for Arnold Defense and our team partners,” said Jim Hager, President and CEO of Arnold Defense. Fletcher can be seen at SOFEX on the Oshkosh Defense stand A609, where it is displayed on an Oshkosh Defense Special Purpose All-Terrain Vehicle (S-ATV) for the very first time.

www.arnolddefense.com

Aerostats on a Pay by the Hour Model

(df) The Israeli-based aerostat company RT LTA Systems is building its presence in Australia and offering a quite interesting opportunity. Through cooperation with a local partner, RT’s aerostats will be available for lease on a “pay by the hour” plan, in which clients are able to lease the systems on an hourly basis. The leasing includes the operation of the system by the company’s professional local staff.

The SkyStar aerostats are a self-contained, versatile, and easily transportable tactical systems, ideal for defense, border securi-

ty, HLS, search and rescue, wildfire early detection and public safety missions. Offering availability of over 85% in any given area, the SkyStar systems already accumulated more than one and a half million operational hours worldwide. The systems is ideal for defence, security, HLS, border control and public safety missions, and strategic infrastructures protection. In recent years, the SkyStar 180 system was in use during the Winter Olympic Games in Canada, during the FIFA World Cup in Brazil, during visits of Pope Francis’ in various countries including Uganda, Central Africa Republic, Israel & Colombia, as well as during the Pa-

ris climate summit (COP 21) in France.

Rami Shmueli, RT’s CEO, said: “Using an aerostat resembles building a tower of 1,500 ft. in only 20 minutes, and at a minimal cost per day. No other defence systems, manned or unmanned, are as cost-effective as aerostats.”

www.rt.co.il



Finland Wants to Buy 64 Fighter Jets

(ck) Finland has invited tenders for 64 multi-purpose combat aircraft to replace its obsolete fleet of F/A-18 Hornet jets due to be phased out in 2025. The contract is expected to have a total value of €7-10Bn. Possible candidates are Saabs Gripen, Dassault's Rafale, Boeing's Super Hornet, Lockheed Martins F-35 and Eurofighter, a joint project of Airbus, BAE and Leonardo.



(Photo: U.S. Marines Corps)

Defence Minister Jussi Niinisto said the performance of the jets was the main cri-

terion, and Finland would talk to all aircraft manufacturers.

Helsinki invites manufacturers to submit price offers for the new jets by early 2019 and plans to take the final decision in 2021. Finland shares a 1,340 km long border with Russia and has a difficult history with its Russian neighbour. Finland has compulsory military service for all men and is one of six members of the European Union who have not also joined NATO.

Airport Surveillance Radars for Canada

(ck) With the Site Acceptance Test (SAT) for the last unit in Greenwood, Nova Scotia, HENSOLDT has equipped a total of six military airfields in Canada with modern airport surveillance radars. A training system has also been installed in Canada. This completes the installation phase for the €50 million contract awarded to HENSOLDT

in 2013. The programme includes the delivery of seven radar systems and two spare parts packages.

The ASR radars each consist of an integrated primary and secondary radar system. The primary radar helps to detect non-cooperative objects such as small aircraft without transponders or enemy aircraft. It is based on a semiconductor transmitter and includes special signal processing techniques

for wide area surveillance and wind farm mitigation. The secondary radar, MSSR 2000 I, enables the automatic identification of cooperative aircraft. It complies with the new Mode S/Mode 5 standard of air traffic control, which significantly improves aircraft identification queries and is currently being introduced in all NATO and allied armed forces.

www.hensoldt.net

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New Drones of the German Navy

(df) The German Navy will procure three Puma AE II systems (à two aircraft systems) of AeroVironment, who partners with ESG for this Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). A Puma AE (All Environment) II system has a weight of six kg and a range of 20 km, and is equipped with both an electro-optical (EO) and infrared (IR) camera and illuminator. Puma AE is a fully waterproof, small, UAS designed for land and maritime operations. It is capable of landing in water or on land. The enhanced precision navigation system with secondary GPS provides greater posi-

tional accuracy and reliability of the Puma AE.

„Through our partnership with AeroVironment, a leading provider of tactical UAS, we achieved to place precisely the system at the navy’s disposal, which they require to significantly expand their reconnaissance capabilities“, states Christoph Weber, head of business division Defence and Public Security at ESG. The company accordingly announced: “With the assignment for procurement and certification at the overall aircraft level, as well as the comprehensive system support of an unmanned



(Photo: ESG)

aircraft system, the competence of ESG as an aviation company, as well as integrator and operator of complex systems has once more been recognized.”

www.avinc.com

www.esg.de

Cooling Systems for the Royal Navy

(ck) AERIUS Marine has received an order to support Babcock International within the framework of the Marine Systems Support Partnership (MSSP) with air conditioning and refrigeration know-how. Babcock offers services to the British Ministry of Defence for both the new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers and the Type 45 destroyers.

The MSSP programme is divided into four lots. As the System Technical Authority (STA), Babcock offers technical and design support, configuration control, inventory management and operational consulting across all lots. For lot 2 (Environmental, Domestic and Habitability) AERIUS Marine will take over technical responsibility for air

conditioning and refrigeration technology for both ship classes. AERIUS Marine has contributed its expertise in the development, manufacture and operation of these systems to the design of the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers.

With the new Babcock order, AERIUS Marine will provide technical expertise for the configuration of the air conditioning and refrigeration systems and will be responsible for the design and implementation of the new systems to ensure consistency throughout the life cycle of the ship and to work with component manufacturers in the development and implementation of upgrades.

AERIUS Marine is a developer of marine air conditioning solutions including NBC protection and is also active in refrigera-



(Photo: Crown Copyright)

tion. The focus is on the construction of new passenger and naval vessels and the maintenance of air conditioning systems over the entire life cycle of a ship. AERIUS Marine, headquartered in Hamburg, is currently represented in Germany, Great Britain, France, India and Australia and employs around 400 people.

www.aerius-marine.com

Japan’s Coast Guard to Buy More H225

(ck) Airbus Helicopters has received another order from the Japanese Coast Guard (JCG) for an H225 helicopter, increasing JCG’s H225 fleet to ten units. JCG currently operates three AS332s and five H225s, both from the Super Puma family.

With this new order, the Japanese Super Puma fleet will grow to 13 units by March 2021 and become the largest Super Puma operator in Japan. The new H225 will support the fleet in enforcing safety regula-

tions, in territorial coastal activities and in disaster operations in Japan.

The 11-tonne H225 twin turbine is the latest member of the Super Puma family from Airbus Helicopters, which can carry up to 19 passengers. Equipped with modern electronic instruments and the 4-axis autopilot system, the H225 offers excellent endurance and high cruising speed and can be equipped with different features for each role.

A total of 21 helicopters of the Super Puma family are currently used by civilian



(Photo: Airbus Helicopters)

operators and the Japanese Ministry of Defence for various search and rescue missions, offshore operations, VIP, fire brigade, passenger and freight transports.

www.airbus.com

Industry & Trade

New Managing Director for MASA Group

(ck) In April 2018 Marc de Fritsch has joined MASA Group as the company's Managing Director. Fritsch assumes this role following a career with the French Army, from which he retired as Brigadier. David Chouraqui will remain the company's CEO and President. Among Fritsch's priorities is increasing the market share of all three of

MASA's products, MASA SWORD, MASA SYNERGY and Direct AI.

Fritsch started his career as a helicopter pilot in the French Army. He spent several years working at the Ministry of Defence. In 2009 Fritsch



became head of the Army Corps 4th Helicopters Regiment of the Special Forces.

Fritsch continued with roles in strategic affairs at the MoD before becoming Director of Bilateral Cooperation – South, where he led the international military relations network with African, Middle Eastern, Asian and Latin American armies.

www.masagroup.net

IAI to Open Office in Germany

(ck) Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has opened a new office in Germany to support its European business. The location for the new office in Berlin was chosen due to Germany's central role in Europe. It replaces IAI's former office in Paris. IAI re-

gards Germany as a key European market and as a platform for co-development of defence and aeronautics technologies. European nations have been busy struggling with terror and uncontrolled immigration over the past decade. The new reality of Europe has given rise to new defence and

home front security needs. Collaborations with European companies are part of IAI's presence in Europe. In 2009 IAI delivered HERON 1 systems to the German air force. The systems became operational six months later and are used to this day.

www.iai.co.il

MASTHEAD

ESD Spotlight

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NCT Europe 2018

The 8th edition of Europe's highly successful NCT event series, the NCT Europe 2018, will take place from July 3-5, 2018 at the National Training Center (NTC) at the Bredero barrack in Vught, The Netherlands. The official partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Defence guarantees the presence of the most high-level CBRNe stakeholders from all over Europe.

The three-day event will feature live CBRNe capability demonstrations, one conference stream, multiple workshops, training sessions for civil and military responders, a large indoor and outdoor industry exhibition and the famous NCT BBQ Party.

NCT Europe will introduce a new feature at their NCT event series: NCT CBRNe Training. Teams from all over Europe (and abroad) are invited to come to the National Training Center (NTC) for daily training on different CBRNe scenarios. Each team will be matched to another team from a different country: Dutch firemen with German military, French police with Austrian ambulance teams, etc. CBRNe events

increasingly require an international response, which is why training should be multinational and multidisciplinary.

That is what NCT CBRNe Training at the NTC is all about providing multidisciplinary training in an international environment. Although the training sessions are not open for the audience (it is training, not demonstrations), the organizer will provide video uplinks to show (parts) of the training on a screen in the exhibition area. Based on the successes of NCT Europe 2017 in Sonthofen, NCT Europe 2018 will again feature a large outdoor exhibition area which gives room for premium sponsors to showcase larger solutions and products. Visitors and experts are invited to join now to experience the balance between live exercises, demonstrations, interactive workshops and conferences.

<http://nct-europe.com>



Future Artillery

Join 15 Heads of Artillery at the annual Future Artillery Conference. 2018 has confirmed attendees, such as Brigadier General Stephen J. Maranian, Commandant, Field Artillery, Fires Center of Excellence, U.S. Army; Brigadier Paul Tennant, Chief Joint Fires and Influence, HQ ARRC NATO; and Brigadier General Michel Delion, Commandant, School of Artillery, French Army

May 14 - 16, London, UK



Future Armoured Vehicles Central and Eastern Europe Conference

Central and Eastern Europe's Most Focused Armoured Vehicles Meeting. Hear detailed updates from key Central and Eastern European nations on their respective procurement and modernisation programmes, including briefings from heads of land, of procurement, and operational command from Poland, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, and many others!

May 21 - 22, Prague, Czech Republic



Undersea Defence Technology 2018

Undersea Defence Technology (UDT) strives towards and continues to deliver a platform for the subsea community to gather and discuss the industry's most pressing questions, prominent technologies and innovative solutions. UDT will see international companies encompassing prime contractors, systems integrators, service providers and small & medium enterprises meet and network with over 1,400 industry influencers, government decision makers and senior military officials.

June 26 - 28, Glasgow, UK



SEDEC

It is aimed to bring together both national and international need authorities and buyers from both the state and the private sector having latest technology in border security, homeland security, secure city sectors. In addition, medium and small businesses in the defense industry supply chain will have the opportunity to demonstrate their products and capabilities to manufacturers of defense main industry platforms.

July 3 - 5, Ankara, Turkey



NCT Europe 2018

The three-day event will feature live CBRNe capability demonstrations, one conference stream, multiple workshops, training sessions for civil and military responders, a large indoor and outdoor industry exhibition and the famous NCT BBQ Party. The official partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Defence guarantees the presence of the most high-level CBRNe stakeholders from all over Europe.

July 3 - 5, Vught, The Netherlands



Future Forces Forum

International exhibition and expert events on the latest trends and technologies in defence and security. All events are focused on presentation of needs of armed and security forces, state-of-the-art technologies, R&D programmes, and business opportunities, with interactions between all participants due to the interconnected topics. Government, international organisations, industry, R&D institutions meet at one place. NATO and the European Defence Agency are involved in shaping the programme.

October 17 - 19, Prague, Czech Republic

