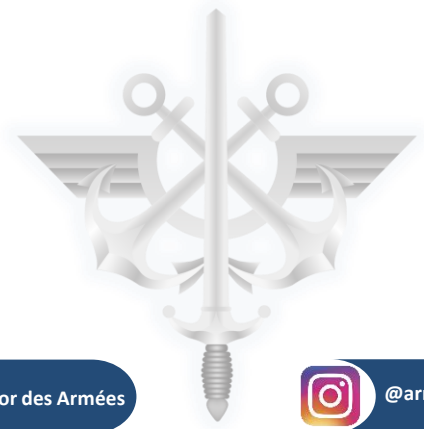


DACIAN FALL

2025



PRESS KIT



From the Baltic to the Mediterranean, the eight multinational battalions pre-positioned on Europe's eastern flank have been or will be reinforced to brigade level, in accordance with the decisions taken at the Madrid Summit in 2022. The Alliance is therefore demonstrating its determination and ability to defend its members and its territory.

The DACIAN series of exercises organised by NATO's MND-SE (Multinational Division – South East) for the forces deployed in JOA-SE (Joint Operational Area South East) was designed to develop the capabilities of land forces to reinforce their presence in JOA-SE, moving from battalion to brigade level.

The main objective of DACIAN FALL 2025 (DAFA 25) is to achieve operational integration of the subordinate and affiliated structures of the Multinational Division Southeast Headquarters, based in Bucharest, hence marking the complete transition of NATO's battlegroups in Romania (and Bulgaria) to brigade level (3,000 troops).

DAFA 25 aims to test the ability of France, the framework nation in Romania, to deploy brigade-level battle groups at short notice from France to Romania and to monitor its successful integration within a NATO division.

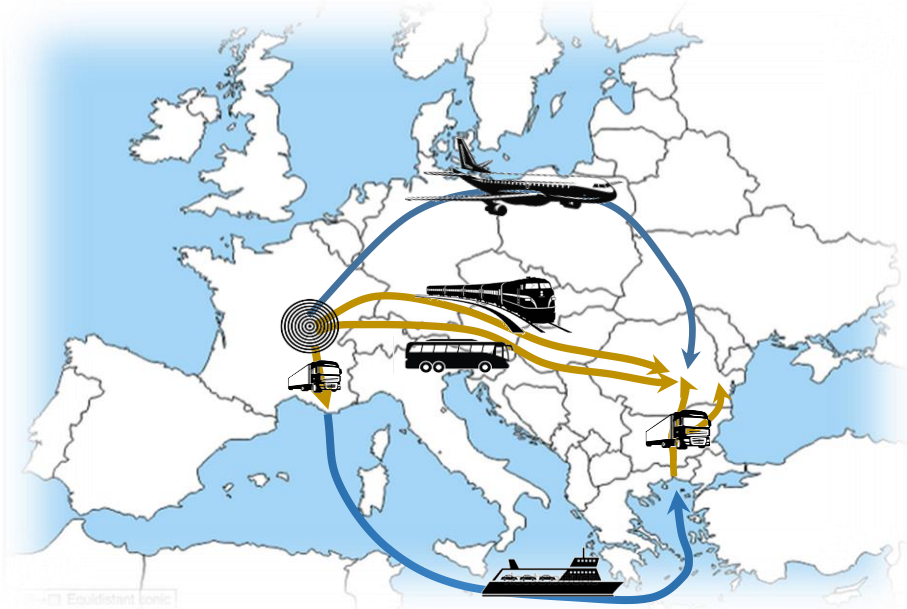
DAFA 25 is a temporary, unprecedented, joint and allied exercise designed to test the ability to quickly and effectively transition from a battalion on operational duty to a brigade-level force – 'ready for combat' – at short notice.

DACIAN FALL 2025 is a three-phases exercise:

- A transport phase: multimodal deployment of personnel and equipment (BRIGADE EXPANSION)
- An integration and interoperability phase: pooling of expertise
- A tactical phase: manoeuvres and live fire exercises in the field

All while remaining operational from day one.





At the Madrid Summit in 2022, NATO decided to implement the Allied Reaction Force (ARF), a military force that can be mobilised and is capable of responding rapidly to any deterioration in security on its territory.

France has formed two large units (with their personnel, equipment and stocks) capable of responding at on short notice to any Alliance mobilisation.

It was in this context, and in the run-up to DAFA 25, that the Alliance transported equipment (vehicles, helicopters, individual and collective weaponry, ammunition, food, stocks, parts, etc.) and troops to Romania to upgrade the multinational battalion to a multinational brigade.

This unprecedented joint multimodal logistics operation (sea, road, rail, air), named "BRIGADE EXPANSION," was conducted between mid-September and early October 2025.

This first phase has been completed and has paved the way for DAFA 25.

Its success validates the Alliance's ability to deploy from France the reinforcements needed to raise the multinational contingent under French command in Romania to brigade level.

MULTIMODAL DEPLOYMENT:





DAFA 25 is an air-land exercise aiming at enhancing interoperability between allied forces.

NATO contributing nations are demonstrating their solidarity with the countries on the Alliance's eastern flank by deploying multinational military battalions to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Their mission is to defend or deter actions that could compromise the security of the Alliance and its members.

In Romania, France is the Framework Nation.

The multinational battalion in Romania is composed of French, Belgian, Spanish and Luxembourgish military personnel. It is under the command of a French command post. Its commander, a colonel in charge of the regiment, directs and coordinates the actions and missions of which it is composed.

In a permanent state of readiness, the battalion is engaged, day and night, in individual and collective exercises to learn NATO standards. This ongoing training with the military personnel of the host nation allows the units to familiarize themselves with their specific characteristics, exchange knowledge and skills and feedback, and standardize coalition engagement concepts and methods.



Joint exercises: training together
Interoperability: fighting together



Alba Iulia



Cincu / Topraisar



Cincu / Smardan



Cartisoara

A MULTI-SITE EXERCISE



Fagaras



Cincu / Smardan



Cincu



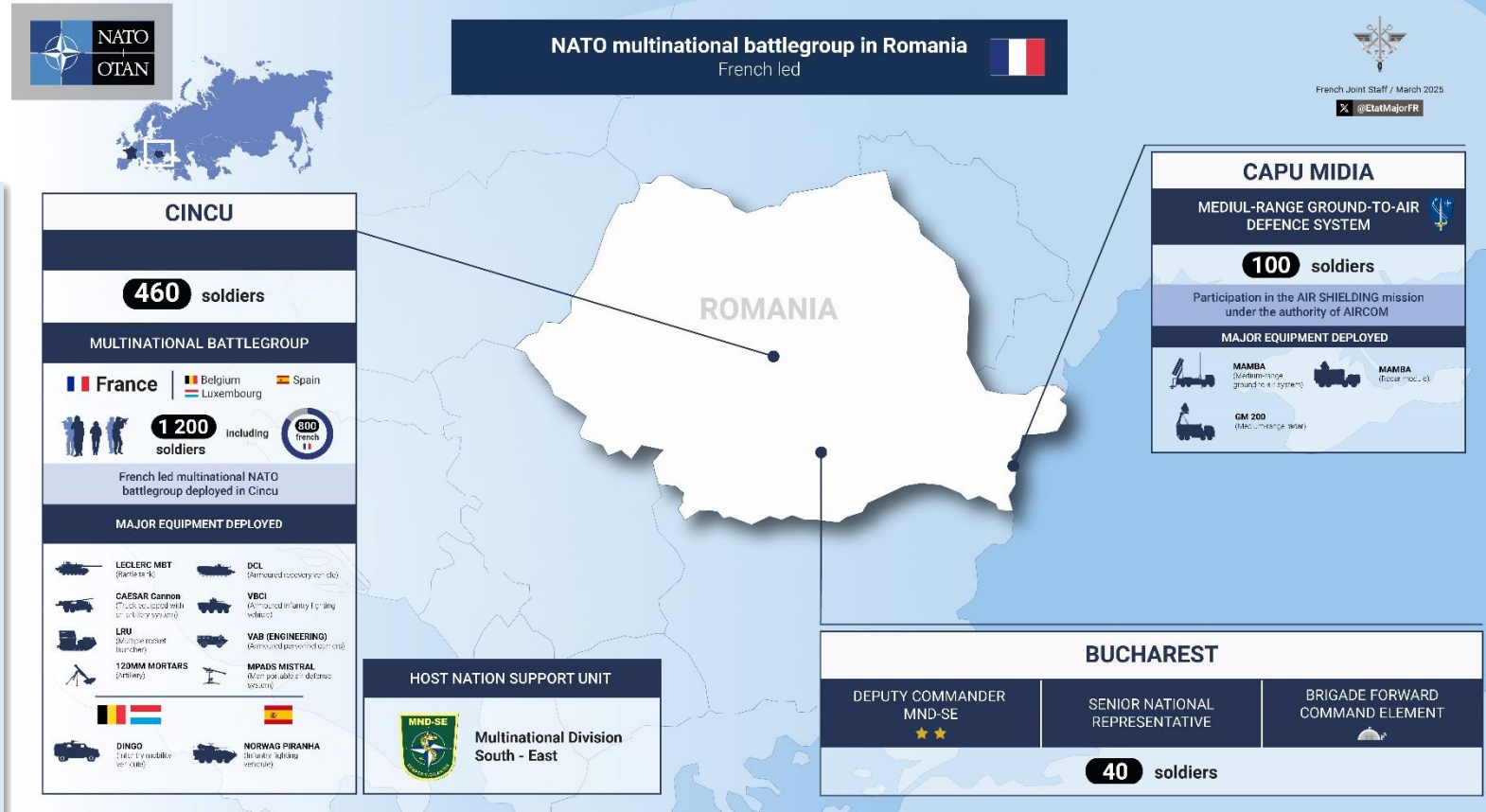
Cincu / Smardan

CLOSED-SPACE FIRE – MISSILE FIRE – CAESAR CANNON FIRE – HELICOPTER FIRE
 ARMOURED COMBAT – OBSTACLE CROSSING – MAINTENANCE
 REFUELLING – LAND MOBILITY SUPPORT – INFANTRY COMBAT
 BRIGADE COMMAND POST

FRENCH ARMY IN ROMANIA

Strengthening NATO's deterrent and defensive posture on Europe's eastern flank over the long term.

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine constitutes one of the most serious violations of the security order in Europe in decades. Romania, as a neighbouring state, fears that the conflict could spill over into its territory. In response to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) has received approval from the North Atlantic Council (NAC) to activate the Graduated Response Plans (GRP), the first part of the Alliance's regional defence plans. The implementation of these measures will prevent the conflict between Russia and Ukraine from spreading beyond Ukraine's borders to NATO member countries. Thus, within the framework of NATO, France is deploying a battalion to Romania (a rapid reaction force alert battalion since 28 February 2022, which became a multinational battalion on 1 May 2022), as well as a MAMBA ground-to-air defence detachment since 16 May 2023.



Fully committed to strengthening the strategic solidarity that underpins the Atlantic Alliance, the French armed forces actively participate in NATO's reassurance missions with appropriate, progressive and responsive resources. They play their full part in strengthening NATO's various long-term mechanisms, as illustrated by the efforts made on behalf of the Baltic countries and the eastern flank (deployment of the Brigade Forward Command Element - BFCE in Romania to fulfil the commitments made at the NATO summit in Madrid in 2022).



The Multinational Brigade is armed by the following units:

- A combined arms brigade headquarters
- a tactical headquarters and combat train no. 2
- an armored squadron with Leclerc tanks,
- an infantry company,
- an engineering combat company.
- a Nuclear, Radiological, Bacteriological and Chemical component,
- an artillery battery on CAESAR,
- an artillery battery on unitary rocket launchers,
- a Belgian armored infantry company on Dingos,
- a Spanish company on Piranha III and VAMTAC,
- a Luxembourg reconnaissance section on drones



FRENCH ARMY IN ROMANIA



Brigadier General Cyril MATHIAS is the Deputy Commander of the Multinational Division Southeast (MND-SE), a NATO structure based in Bucharest. As National Representative (representing all French military personnel deployed), he is also responsible for ensuring that French forces integrated into the multinational structure are used in accordance with French regulations. The Multinational Battalion and the Brigade Forward Command Element are part of this structure.



Brigadier General Maxime Do Tran is the commander of NATO's combat brigade in Romania. He commands an armored brigade stationed in eastern France.



The Deputy National Representative, Colonel Patrick CUDENNEC, is attached to the Romanian Armed Forces Headquarters in Bucharest.

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