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POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY LEADERS GET A LOOK AT JOINT TASK FORCE-EAST

By Sgt. Aimee Millham

Joint Task Force-East Public Affairs Office

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU AIRFIELD ADMINISTRATION CENTER,

Romania -- Almost 30 diplomatic, military and political leaders from several countries got a glimpse of Joint Task Force – East during a July 2 “Distinguished Visitors Day” tour.



SPC JOSEPH McATEE

(Left to right) Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer, U.S. Army Europe acting commanding general; Lt. Gen. Teodor Frunzeti, chief of Romanian Land Forces; Georgeta Elisabeta Ionescu, Romanian secretary of state; and Nicholas F. Taubman, U.S. ambassador to Romania, participate in a press conference during Distinguished Visitor Day at Joint Task Force-East, on Mihail Kogalniceanu Airfield, Romania, July 2.

The tour is the second of its kind at JTF-E, and one of the day’s highest-ranking U.S. visitors noted the operation’s improvements.

“I was truly impressed then, but I am much more impressed now when I consider how far Romania and the U.S. have come in just one year,” said Nicholas Taubman, U.S. ambassador to Romania.

The tour included a visit to Task Force Vampire’s decision-making process center, a demonstration of

the JTF-E Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer, and photo display briefings on the medical, naval and military intelligence functions here.

There was also a chance for the visitors to mingle with Soldiers over lunch.

“I was happy to see an interest from so many high-ranking people in what we do here,” said Sgt. Amy Latour, Headquarters and Headquarters Company JTF-E supply sergeant.

The day’s events ended in a press conference and remarks by Taubman and Romanian Secretary of State Georgeta Ionescu.

Ionescu said the presence of American Soldiers here is greatly beneficial to the Romanian community and global security.

“The decision to make Romanian military facilities available to the U.S. Army contributes to the strengthening of national security and the strategic profile of Romania as an active NATO ally and a firm Euro-Atlantic partner in the fight against terrorism,” said the state secretary.



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