



Emerging Security
Challenges Division

Inauguration of the Moldovan Armed Forces Cyber Incident Response Capability



Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
21 January 2021

Science for Peace
and Security (SPS)
Programme

Project overview



Description

The SPS project “Development of the Moldovan Armed Forces Cyber Defence Capabilities” contributed to NATO’s Defence and Related Security Capacity Building (DCB) package for the Republic of Moldova.

Its goal was to develop the cyber defence capabilities of the Moldovan Armed Forces. In particular, it aimed to increase the human, technical and procedural cyber capabilities to face very sophisticated and emerging cyber threats that may affect the Moldovan military Computer Information Systems’ (CIS) functionality, security of services, and critical infrastructures.

This goal was fulfilled by establishing the Moldovan Armed Forces Cyber Incident Response Capability (MAFCIRC) with a supporting cyber defence infrastructure. This new capability has been developed to control and minimize any damage related to cyber-attacks, provide quick and efficient recovery and prevent similar future events.

Cyber defence experts from the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) have implemented this project with the support of the SPS Programme. The project was officially launched on 13 February 2018 and completed in November 2020.

Deliverables

- Establishment of the MAFCIRC with its supporting infrastructure at the Moldovan Ministry of Defence (MOD). The MAFCIRC contributes to the protection of critical military IT infrastructure, prevention, detection and reaction to cyber-attacks in the first stages, followed by sharing of information and lessons learned with relevant Moldovan defence and security institutions;
- Delivery of specialized cyber defence, Cyber Security Incident Response and ISO 27001 trainings to MOD personnel (15 persons were trained);
- Provision of technical advice to design the cyber laboratory;
- Provision of necessary IT equipment and refurbishment of the physical infrastructure of the cyber laboratory;
- Provision of assistance to the Moldovan Armed Forces in expanding cooperation with NATO specialized institutions in the area of cyber defence to develop and ensure their information security.

Programme



10:30 - 10:55

Remarks

Moderator: Mr. David van Weel, Assistant Secretary General, Emerging Security Challenges Division, NATO

- H.E. Mircea Geoană, Deputy Secretary General, NATO
- H.E. Victor Gaiciuc, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Moldova
- Brig. Gen. Igor Gorgan, Chief of National Army General Staff, Commander of the National Army
- Maj. Gen. Göksel Sevindik, Chief of Staff, NCI Agency

10:55 - 11:00

Introduction

by Dr. Deniz Beten, Senior SPS and Partnership Cooperation Advisor, ESCD, NATO

Virtual ribbon cutting and inauguration of the Moldovan Armed Forces Cyber Incident Response Capability

By H.E. Mircea Geoană at NATO HQ and H.E. Victor Gaiciuc in Chisinau

11:00

End of the meeting

Participating Institutions



NCI Agency

The NCI Agency (NCIA) is a NATO Agency that acquires, deploys and defends communications systems for NATO's political decision-makers and command structures. The NCIA is on the frontline of cyber defence, working closely with governments and the industry to prevent future debilitating attacks. The experts of the Agency are NATO's cyber and information technology leaders. They help NATO nations communicate and work together in smarter ways. Their solutions underpin NATO's ability to perform Article IV (consultation) and Article V (collective defence) of the North Atlantic Treaty. The NCIA was established on 1 July 2012 as part of a NATO reform, but the Agency was built on a 65-year legacy with decades of experience of working side-by-side with NATO soldiers, sailors, as well as airmen and airwomen.

Today, NATO is in the midst of a fundamental transformation to take full advantage of new technologies to fulfil its mission. The NCIA is leading this transformation and is working to deliver a secure and modern digital infrastructure to NATO, wherever the Alliance is located. This effort is important and the stakes are high as NATO's principle task is to ensure the protection of its nearly one billion citizens and to promote security and stability in the North Atlantic area.



Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova

The mission of the Moldovan Ministry of Defence is to develop defence policies, reinforce the National Army, and identify military risks and threats, as well as the needs of the national defence system to protect Moldova. The Ministry of Defence comprises the Central Apparatus and the Main Staff, which exercise authority, direction and control over the main public defense sectors, and execute the political and military management of the National Army, respectively. In case of emergency, siege, or war, the Ministry of Defence takes all the necessary political, legislative, technical, material, financial and social measures to protect the defence personnel performing their duties under the command of the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

J6 Communication and Information Systems Directorate, of the National Army

The mission of J6 Communication and Information Systems Directorate is to provide all the necessary technical support to the chain of command through the Communication and Informatics System of the National Army (SCIAN). The Communication and Information Systems Directorate of the National Army develops and implements communication and computer concepts, regulations, policies and plans; manages frequencies and electromagnetic compatibility; and plans and conducts the SCIAN activity. The Directorate is in charge of information security within communication channels and computer networks. The Directorate also controls the combat readiness of specialized units and subunits, and defends the National Army's interests with regards to cooperation with its international counterparts, related institutions and organizations, as well as other communication and computer units.

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme is an established brand for NATO based on four pillars: science, partnership, security, and unconventional issues (hybrid threats). It has been contributing to the core goals of the Alliance for more than six decades. Today, the SPS Programme continues to be one of the largest and most important partnership programmes addressing 21st century security challenges, particularly cyber defence, counter-terrorism, CBRN defence, energy security and advanced technologies.

The NATO Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme enhances security-related civil science and technology to address emerging security challenges and their impacts on international security. It connects scientists, experts and officials from NATO and Partner countries to work together to address these challenges. The SPS Programme provides funding and expert advice for security-relevant activities in the form of Multi-Year Projects (MYP), Advanced Research Workshops (ARW), Advanced Training Courses (ATC), and Advanced Study Institutes (ASI). SPS activities are always demand-driven, modular, and designed to meet the requirements of the nation(s) and end user(s). The relevance of SPS activities in response to NATO Strategic Objectives and political priorities is reinforced also via special calls, which are issued on an ad hoc basis to draw the attention of the scientific community towards current topics of interest for Allies.

Every year, approximately 2000 experts participate in SPS activities and help to build capacity in partner nations, and support NATO's efforts.

More than 20 Nobel Laureates have been involved in the SPS Programme, a testament to the scientific excellence supported by the SPS Programme.

Young scientists are also actively supported through SPS activities, which contribute to broaden their professional network and scientific expertise.

The SPS Programme also has a high public diplomacy value for NATO, providing the Alliance with separate, non-military communication channels by bringing together experts from NATO and Partner countries, often in situations or regions where other forms of dialogue more directly focused on defence and security are difficult to establish. Accordingly, the Programme enables NATO to become actively involved in such regions, often serving as the first concrete link between NATO and a new Partner.

Notes

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The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

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You can find further information
on our website:

www.nato.int/science

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