

General Nicolae Ciucă, Chief of Defense Staff, Romania

From 2001 until 2004 **General Ciucă** has an important experience has an important experience gained in Romania, in international missions in Angola, Iraq, Afghanistan and in numerous multinational exercises.

He was the commander of the 26th Infantry Battalion (2001-2004). In 2001, he participated in the 'Dynamic Response' Multinational Exercise in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the 26th Infantry Battalion Commander – SACEUR strategic reserve. He commanded his battalion in the Enduring Freedom I Mission to Afghanistan (2002-2003) and in the Antica Babilonia, Iraq (2004).

In 2003, he got a Ph.D. in military studies, and in 2004 he attended the Course for the Relationships between the Military Personnel and the Civilians in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Hulburt Field, Florida-USA.

From 2004 until 2006 he was the Chief of Operations at the 2nd Infantry Brigade. In 2006, he furthered his military studies by graduating from the ARMY War College, USA, with a Master Degree in Strategic Studies. From 2006 to the very beginning of 2007 he was acting as chief of staff at the same brigade. From 2007 until 2009 he was appointed as Deputy Commander of 282nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, and from 2009 to 2011 he was the Brigade Commander. In 2010 he participated in the Eurasian Star Exercise (NRDC-Turkey), as Brigade Commander.

On October 25th 2010 he was promoted to Brigadier General, and starting with January 2011 he has been appointed Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division. On May 9th 2013 he was promoted to Major General, and on January 7th 2014, he assumed the command of the Romanian Land Forces Staff. Starting with October 15th 2014 he was appointed Deputy Chief of General Staff and on December 1st 2014 he was promoted to Lieutenant General.

On January 1st 2015, Lieutenant General Ciucă assumed the command of the Romanian General Staff. In November 2015 he was promoted to General.