

Major General Claudiu O. DOBOCAN

Commander, Romanian Special Operations Forces Command

Major General Claudiu O. Dobocan has served as Commander of the Romanian Special Operations Command since August 2023, following a two-year tenure as Director and Acting Deputy of the same structure. His extensive joint and international experience includes commanding the Romanian Special Operations Component Command since 2019, serving as Exchange Officer at U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida (2015–2017), Director of the Special Operations Element in Regional Command-East, Afghanistan (2012–2013), and Head of the Exercise Branch at NATO Special Operations Headquarters in Belgium (2008–2011). A 1995 graduate of the Army Academy (Infantry), General Dobocan began his military career in airborne and special mission units, advancing through various tactical command and staff roles.

General Dobocan has played a pivotal role in the development and transformation of Romanian Special Operations Forces (SOF). As SOF Advisor to the Army Chief of Staff (2005–2008), he contributed to force generation and operational deployments to Afghanistan. At NATO SOF Headquarters, he led the drafting of alliance-wide SOF doctrine and standards. Upon returning to Romania, he held critical J2 and J3 roles supporting SOF planning and capability development. From 2017 to 2018, he led efforts to conceptualize and establish the Romanian Special Operations Command and Joint SOF School, laying the foundation for Romania's SOF Transformation Initiative. He holds a bachelor's degree in management from the Army Academy (Sibiu), a Master of Science in Special Operations from the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, California), and is an honor graduate of the NATO Defense College (135th Class, Rome).