

Claudiu O. Dobocan – Chief of Special Forces, Romania

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 Commander of the same structure.

He brings extensive joint and international experience, having commanded the Romanian Special Operations Component Command since 2019. His international assignments include serving as an 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), Major General Dobocan began his military career in airborne and special mission units, progressing through a wide range of tactical command and staff positions.

He has played a pivotal role in the development and transformation of Romania's Special Operations Forces (SOF). As SOF Adviser to the Chief of the Army Staff (2005–2008), he contributed to force generation and operational deployments to Afghanistan. During his time at NATO Special Operations Headquarters, he led the development of alliance-wide SOF doctrine and standards.

Upon returning to Romania, he held key J2 (intelligence) and J3 (operations) roles, supporting SOF planning and capability development. Between 2017 and 2018, he led efforts to conceptualize and establish the Romanian Special Operations Command and the Joint SOF School, laying the foundation for Romania's SOF Transformation Initiative.

Major General Dobocan holds a bachelor's degree in management from the Army Academy in Sibiu, a Master of Science in Special Operations from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and is an honor graduate of the NATO Defense College (135th Class, Rome).