



Dr Mircea MÎNDRESCU
Brigadier General (retired)
Former Director of Strategic Planning Directorate, Romanian General Staff,
Commander of NATO Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre, Lisbon
and Director of National Defence College, Bucharest

Brigadier General Mîndrescu is an experienced military officer whose professional expertise spans over the most important domains of defence activities, namely operational units and formations, military educational institutions, MoD's main bodies, defence planning and politico - military diplomacy.

He holds a university degree in engineering¹ and graduated from the National Academy for Physical Activities and Sport (1999, Bachelor degree – five years of studies). In 2001, Mircea Mîndrescu was awarded a scholarship at the Joint Services Command and Staff College (Advanced Command and Staff Course-5), Shrivenham, United Kingdom, which he graduated from in 2002. In the following year, 2003, he was awarded the title of Master of Arts (*with Merit*) in Defence Studies by the King's College, London University, following the graduation from an additional educational programme taken up while in the United Kingdom. Mircea Mindrescu holds a PhD in Military Sciences from the Romanian National Defense University; his thesis analyses the concept of strategic paralysis.

Brigadier General Mîndrescu is a keen reader being fond of international politics, security and strategic thinking, history and military science. He has been publishing on security and defence issues/ various topics in the monthly "Romanian Military Thinking" magazine. He is an invitee lecturer with the Romanian Land Forces Academy being at the same time a honorary member of Academy's Academic Board.

He is the holder of the following Brevets (Military Specialities): Military Paratrooper (Romanian and French Brevets); Military Climber; Military Diver. He is fluent in English and has a very good level of French. In recognition of his achievements and his contribution he was awarded various military decorations.

Born on December 30th, 1962, in Galati County, Romania, Dr Mîndrescu joined the Romanian Armed Forces as soon as he could. He was admitted to the Ștefan cel Mare Military College at fourteen-years and during the final year of school he was appointed the cadet-leader of one of the two cadet battalions. In 1981, he went on to attend the Military School for Signals Officers. Once again, during the final year, he was nominated the cadet-leader of one of the three cadet-battalions of the school. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1984.

¹ By the Romanian law, the graduation of a Military Academy (three years of studies) and of the Advanced Military Studies Academy (two years of studies) entitles to a Civil University Degree equivalence (five years of University studies).

Between 1984 and 1989 he was appointed as an instructor to the future officers within the Military School he had graduated from. After succeeding in a selection exam, then in the rank of Senior Lieutenant, BGen Mîndrescu began his studies in the Advanced Military Studies Academy (the Romanian Staff College) in 1989, which he graduated from in 1991 (ranking in the second position in his class).

The period of time from 1991 to 1999 saw him serving with various military educational and operational units and formations of the Paratroopers Corps. He was appointed, successively, the head of the communication branch to a Para Battalion, as a chief lecturer to the Training School of Paratroopers (where he delivered presentations on communications systems, support operations, military history, airborne operations and military doctrine), and as the chief of staff and then acting Commanding Officer of a Special Operations Battalion.

1999 was the year when he joined the MoD's main bodies. During the following two years, as the head of the Secretariat Office and Action Officer of the Secretary of State for Defence Policy, he was close to the high level management of defence. His main tasks were to brief and advise the Secretary of State on various topics pertaining to the Department's fields of responsibilities and the organisation's internal management. In that capacity he was also actively participating in the coordination of the first cycle of Romanian integrated defence planning and the drafting of the first Romanian White Paper on Defence.

Between 2002 and 2003, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, BGen Mîndrescu was assigned as the head of the Bilateral Military Cooperation Section/the Euro-Atlantic Integration and Defence Policy Department. In that capacity he was in charge with drafting, negotiating, concluding and overseeing the running of the bilateral military cooperation of Romanian MoD (the General Staff and the three Services included). One of the most important tasks was to ensure that bilateral military cooperation was directed towards and harmonised with the overall objectives of integrating Romania in NATO and European Union.

From 2003 to 2007, as a Colonel, BGen Mîndrescu was ordered to Brussels as a Defence Advisor to the Romanian Permanent Representative to NATO. During his tenure his fields of responsibilities were mainly with the Allied Operations, Nuclear Policy, Crisis Management, Defence Planning, NATO – EU Cooperation, NATO – Russia Relations, Non – Proliferation and armament cooperation. He was part of the team which managed the transition from being an invitee country to being a NATO member country in term of the Romanian national diplomatic representation at the NATO HQ.

At the beginning of 2007, BGen Mîndrescu was nominated as the head of the International Cooperation Initiatives Office/the Planning and Defence Policy Department. During that period his responsibilities were with Multinational (mainly EU and NATO) Operations/Missions and Partnerships.

In February 2008 BGen Mîndrescu was appointed Deputy Director for Education of the National Defence College. In the Romanian educational system, the National Defence College is the highest politico – military educational institution the curricula of which is aimed at educating and forming top people, from MoD and other key organizations, civilians and military alike, whose capacities have already led, or is likely to lead them, to assignments at the top of their organizations. From January 2009 to March 2010 he was nominated as the acting Director of the National Defence College. Then, until July 2010 BGen Mîndrescu was appointed as the full Director of the National Defence College. During this period the National Defence College, in cooperation with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), organised the first ever (it was 2009) in Romania, orientation course on the subject of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), in Brussels. Furthering that cooperation, on the next year, in Bucharest, the NDC organized the forth module of the High Level Course of the ESDC on ESDP. Along his tenure he was a member of the Academic Board of the European Security and Defence College.

July 2010 was the moment when BGen Mîndrescu returned to the operational field, being ordered to be the Chief of Staff of the Land Forces Operational Command, an organisation the main tasks of which are to plan, coordinate and oversee the preparations (in terms of selecting, training, implementation of lessons learned, logistics,

administrative issues etc.) of the military units and formations selected to be sent to missions abroad and, as well, to command and control the Land Forces' formations, units and task forces in operations beyond the Romanian national borders. Between December 2011 and June 2012 he was the National Senior Military Representative in Afghanistan.

On the 5th August 2013, as a Colonel, he took over the command of the NATO's Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre, in Lisbon, Portugal, the first NATO command Romania has ever had since she has been admitted into the North Atlantic Alliance. JALLC is the NATO's Lead Agent for Joint and Comprehensive Analysis of issues pertaining, mainly, to the strategic domain. JALLC is also fundamentally contributing to the Lessons Learned activity in NATO, and, has, as well, educational and mentoring responsibilities. On the December 1st, 2013, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.

After completing his tour of duty as JALLC Commander, in August 2016 he was appointed as the Deputy Commander of the Land Forces Operational Command. Between April and July 2017 he has been the Director of the Strategic Planning Directorate from the Romanian General Staff.

In his free time, he likes physical exercises and is a dedicated tennis player. He also enjoys more recreational pursuits like trekking and mountaineering. He is married to Gina Mihaela, a Defence Adviser to the Permanent Representative of Romania to NATO in Brussels.