

Major General (ret.) Mihai Burlacu is former Chief of Communications and Information Technology Directorate, within the Romanian Ministry of Defence. He held this position between 2022-2023.

MG (ret.) Burlacu was acting as military advisor to the Chief of Defence for planning, strategy, implementation and sustainment of major joint CIS/C4ISR capabilities and other relevant ICT services provided for national, NATO, EU and Coalition Operations and in addition, was tasked to lead the overall MoD Digital Transformation as Chief Information Officer.

MG (ret.) Burlacu was commissioned with the 48<sup>th</sup> Signal Regiment in 1985 after he graduated the Signal Officer School. He started as a platoon leader and company commander of CIS teams and regimental units.

Afterwards he was assigned in various command and staff positions and after the National Defence University graduation in 1993 was appointed with the Communications and Information Systems Command.

Since 1997, he undertook different assignments and tasks in CIS Operations and Capability Planning within the J6 General Staff and also he accomplished two service tours 1998-2001 and 2003-2007 when he served as the Romanian C3 Representative to NATO, at NATO HQ Brussels.

In 2007 MG (ret.) Burlacu received a PhD degree for successful completion of a program of studies in Military Science with the research paper on *C4I Systems supporting Joint Operations* - at National Defence University, Bucharest, Romania.

In 2008 he took over CIS Planning Branch/CIS Directorate and later on, in 2016 he was appointed the Commander of the 48<sup>th</sup> CIS Centre for a short period of time.

Between 2016 -2017 he worked for European Union Advisory Mission in Kyiv as the Senior IT Advisor in Ukraine being responsible for the implementation of various projects in his remit regarding the Security Sector Reform of Ukraine.

He returned in Romania in 2017 when he was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Communications and Information Technology Directorate dealing mostly with the implementation of Federated Mission Networking Concept in Romania, the development of future digital forces including the tasks to explore and experiment ways and means to value the Emergent and Disruptive Technologies and the development of what Cyberspace Operations are requiring as future capabilities.

MG (ret.) Mihai Burlacu was the head of C&IT Directorate is leading the interagency cooperation with respect to the critical IT infrastructure and services related to security and defence.