

Lieutenant General (ret.) Vasile TOADER is an aviation officer educated and trained as an operations officer and air traffic controller. He started his career in the Approach Control System and Air Operations Center, then in the General Staff as an operations officer at the air base level and then in the Air Force General Staff. He has held various leadership positions such as Chief of Operations Planning, Chief of Current Air Operations and Chief of Air Operations. His duties included planning, command and control, combat readiness assessment, exercises and air force interoperability.

In 2015, he was promoted to Commander of the National Military Command Center (Nucleus) with primary responsibility for current operations and crisis preparedness at the national level. He was then assigned to the position of Deputy to the Commander of the Combined Forces Command, being responsible for the operational assessment, deployment and support of Romanian contingents in missions abroad. Since August 2017, he was appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Defense for Operations and Training, being responsible for combat preparedness, command and control, strategic planning, training and instruction, exercises, special forces and communications. Subsequently, in 2019, he was promoted to (first) Deputy Chief of Defense.

From May 2021 to February 2024, he was Romania's Military Representative to NATO and the EU, representing the Chief of Defense in the Military Committees of the two organizations. Allied deterrence and defense, support to Moldova and Ukraine, the relevance of the Black Sea Region and Romania's contribution were the main topics on his agenda.

His international operational experience includes participation in D.R. Congo as UN observer, in Ankara/Turkey as Air Operations Officer at the Multinational Movement Coordination Center for ISAF II, in NATO Air Component Command, Izmir/Turkey as Air Operations Officer and NRF Section Chief, and in Afghanistan at Kabul International Airport, ISAF, as Air Operations Group Commander.

Among other national and international orders and medals, he received the National Order "Romanian Star" in the rank of Knight, the National Order "For Merit" in the ranks of Knight and Officer, the National Order "Faithful Service" in the rank of Knight, the Order "Military Virtue" in the rank of Knight and the "NATO Meritorious Service Medal".

Throughout his career he has acquired extensive experience in security and defense, mainly in security environment assessment, strategies and plans, capability development, operations planning, command and control.

He has been a member of the New Strategy Center's Scientific Council since April 2024.