

Rear Admiral (UH) Mihai PANAIT

Chief of the Naval Forces

Romania

Commissioned in 1991 as a lieutenant junior grade, his first assignments onboard ships were as minesweeper operations department head and later on as executive officer. At squadron and brigade level, he served as operations officer, followed by the same position at brigade level. Upon National Defence University graduation, he was appointed commanding officer of minelayer "IOAN MURGESCU" (271), chief of staff and deputy commanding officer of MCM squadron.

His first assignment as flag officer was as chief of staff of the Fleet Command and subsequently, he was promoted on December 01st 2017 to the rank of Rear Admiral (LH). On August, 1st 2019 he was assigned as Fleet Commander and on 1st December promoted to Rear Admiral (UH). On July 1st, 2020, he was appointed as the Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces. From January 1st 2018 he was acting Deputy Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces for Operations and Training, being appointed from June 15th 2018. On August 1st 2019 he was promoted as Fleet Commander. A surface warfare officer by trade, he graduated from the "Mircea cel Batran" Naval Institute in 1991. His post graduation education includes Command Team Training Programme in Den Helder, NLD (2005), Naval Command College in Newport, Rhode Island, USA (2009), Joint Strategic Leadership Course in National Defence University "Carol I", Bucharest (2014), Combined Force Maritime Component Commanders Flag Course in Naples, Italy (2017). He also graduated several career courses in Romania or abroad in the area of staff duties, units and brigade level command, security and good governance.