

In autumn 2007, the Chief of the Romanian Air Force Staff discussed the restructuring of the Romanian Air Force (ROU AF) in an article published in *The Romanian Military Thinking*,¹ a Romanian General Staff magazine. Focus areas for the restructuring process follow an aggressive strategy and include: establishing flexible and agile organisations / structures, which continuously collaborate to facilitate transformation and to institutionalise cultural change; establishing deployable force packages; developing innovative thinking, which guides transformational activities; changing from planning and programming centred on threats and platforms to planning and programming based on capabilities

and effects, enabled by concepts and ideas of the information era.² This article looks at the restructuring underway in the ROU AF with a view towards transformation and overcoming the challenges facing transformation.

Romanian Air Force Transformation

Transformation of the Romanian Armed Forces, as a whole, and the modernisation of the ROU AF in particular, represent a permanent development process; new concepts, strategies, doctrines and integration of capabilities are required to improve effectiveness and interoperability in a continuously evolving security environment.

The challenges facing transformation of the ROU AF include:

- Modernising the air platforms to enable the carriage and launch of precision guided munitions.
- Improving the ability to deploy forces, by means of transport and logistic support, to remote areas.
- Integrating the multi-mission capabilities to support other forces' activities.
- Expanding the air data merging system by integrating data from sensors such as AWACS and, possibly, sensors of other nations.
- Developing a protected and secure voice and data communications system that is resistant to jamming.