



IAR-99 Hawk trainer.

Command and Control. Another issue, which is more quickly achievable, and responds to this topic, is the implementation this autumn [2007] and the following spring of both the CRONOS² and ICC³ systems. This will directly connect our MAOC and our air bases, which are performing air policing, to NATO's Air C2. It will be much easier to transmit specific orders in this way. What's more, we performed already the first test with AWACS⁴ and our MAOC using Link-11. In the very near future, we will resolve the Link-16 problem [the Link-16 connectivity between the MAOC and NATO aircraft]. From this point of view, our MAOC connection with the E-3A AWACS will be resolved very quickly. In fact, we will use all these technical possibilities during the NATO Summit in April next year in Bucharest.

Is it the intent that your multirole aircraft will evolve to Link-16 capability?

Sure, it is a NATO requirement. But you know there are some specific steps in this way. From

the legal point of view, a technical agreement must exist between the US government and our government. We have already sent a letter of request on this specific matter, regarding the Link-16 connection between our MAOC and the AWACS. For the next step, we must decide, first of all, what our multirole aircraft will be and then, after that, to establish inside the government whether it will have Link-16. I think we are moving in the right direction and I must work these specific aspects during the next 3 to 4 years.

Sir, would you like to leave us with any final thoughts?

I think we have been very much involved in all current matters specific to the Alliance. Here we are talking about, let's call them, day-to-day activities but also about visions for the future. I am trying to train my personnel and the air bases in accordance with these requirements and, I recognise, it is not easy when I also have to consider the budget. I'm thinking optimistically from this point of view that we will be

able to ensure a good level for all these needs. Sure, everything can be better and more beautiful if the budget were to increase. As you know, in Romania there are many needs in many domains but, our Gross Domestic Product is growing; it has a positive trend. So, I am hoping that if we properly plan for a couple of years we will resolve these problems. I also have to highlight that I am receiving plenty of support and help from different partners in different ways: we are talking about training, logistics help, and support in theatre. I believe this will help us fully integrate into NATO more quickly.

Sir, thank you for this interview. ■

Endnotes:

1. ARS, an Air Command and Control System (ACCS) entity, is composed of the Air Control Centre (ACC), the RAP Production Centre (RPC), and the Sensor Fusion Post (SFP). The ARS may be static or deployable.
2. CRONOS is NATO's classified network, formerly called the Crisis Response Operations in NATO Operating System (CRONOS).
3. ICC is the Integrated Command and Control system, NATO's Air C2 tool used at the CAOC.
4. AWACS is the Airborne Warning and Control System.