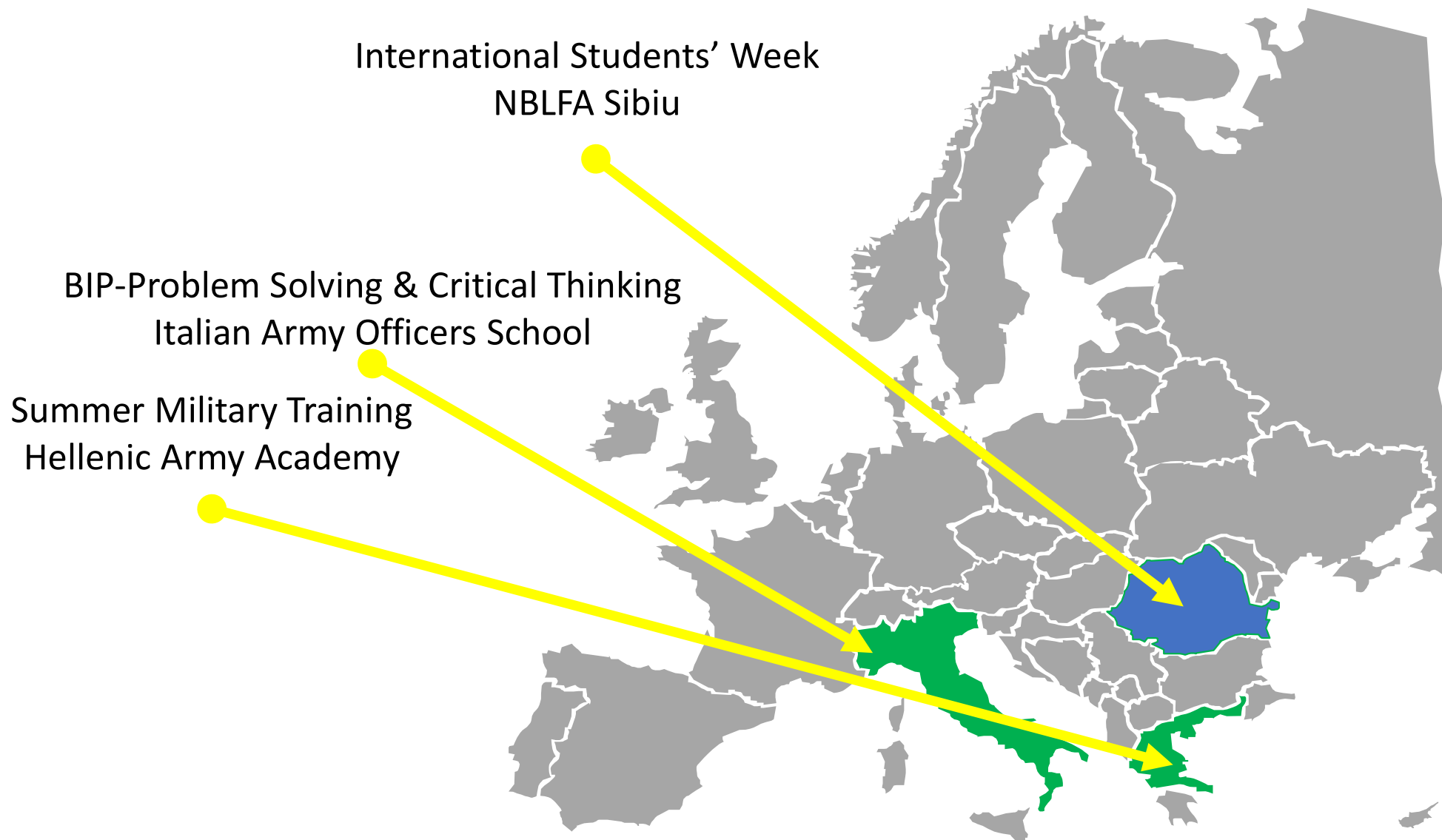




International Military Academic
Forum 2026 in Riga/Latvia

Romania

“Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy of Sibiu

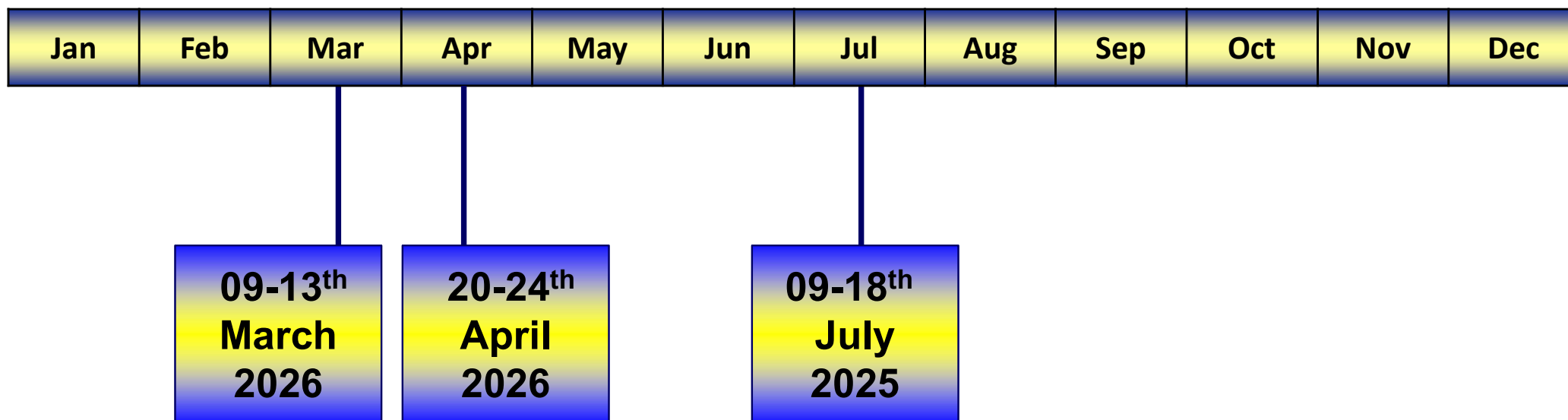




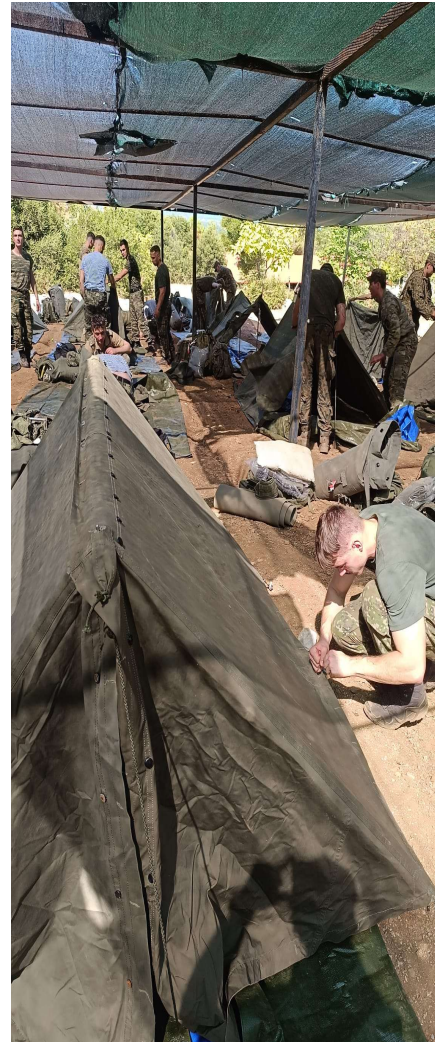
Duration of stay

2026

2025

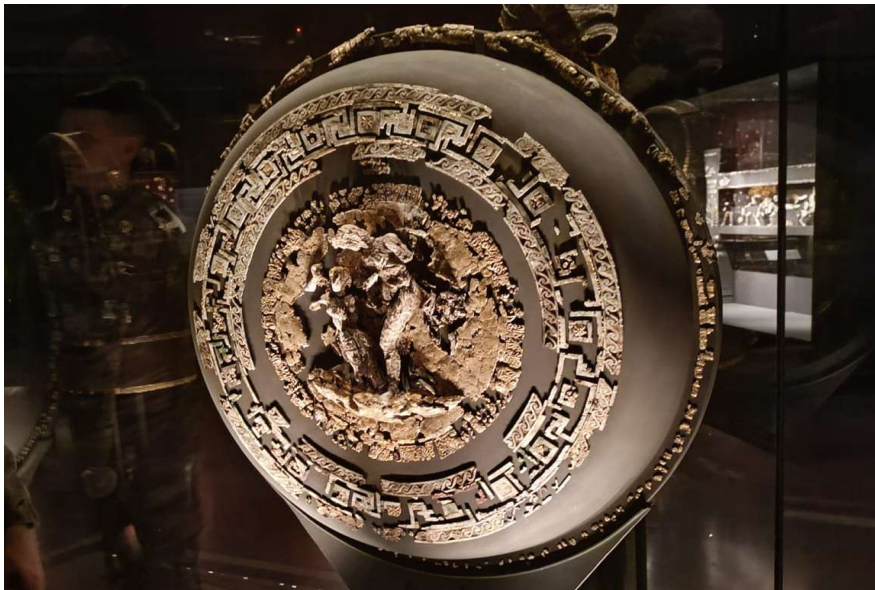


- **Various tactical exercises: land navigation, assault simulations, and mission planning;**
- **Preparing operational documents such as OPODs and briefing reports;**
- **Respond to realistic scenarios, solve problems under pressure, and adapt our decisions based on changing operational conditions.**



Highlights

- **Experiencing military life in an international environment while discovering Greek culture and traditions.**
- **Airborne assault exercise with a CHINOOK helicopter where we applied CQB techniques in a realistic scenario.**



Benefits

- **Critical thinking;**
- **Decision-making;**
- **Teamwork skills;**
- **Challenging environments;**
- **Practical knowledge of tactical planning;**
- **Exposure to military techniques and equipment not usually available during regular academy training;**
- **Strengthened my English communication skills, expanded my understanding of international military cooperation.**



Recommendations

- **Scenario-based training activities where cadets must continuously react to evolving situations.**
- **Greater collaboration with specialized military units would also help students gain practical experience with modern combat techniques.**
- **Increasing personal responsibility during training would better prepare cadets for real operational conditions.**

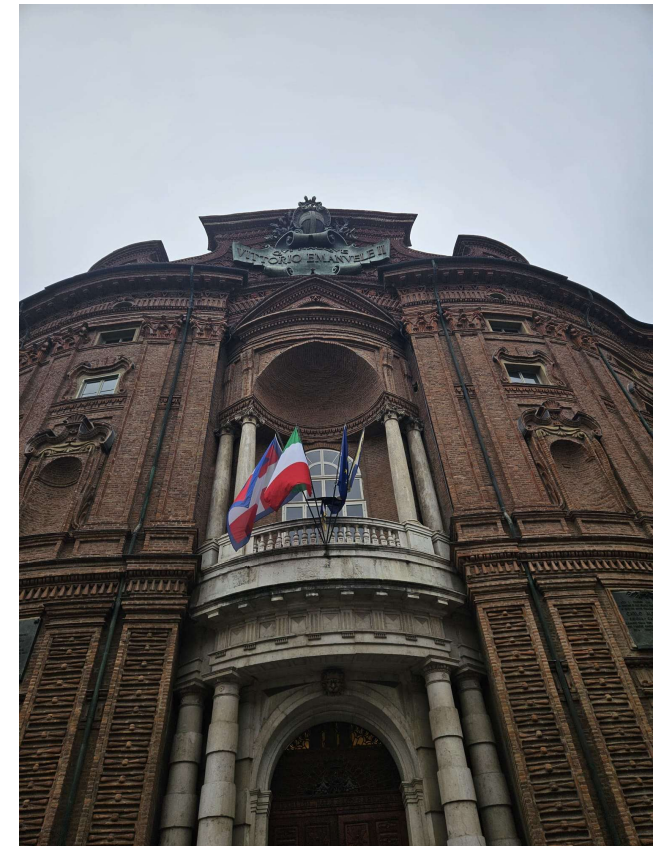


- Lectures, strategic games, teamwork sessions, and practical exercises focused on problem solving and decision-making.
- Work in multinational groups to analyze scenarios, develop solutions, and present arguments during discussions and presentations.
- Data analysis, public speaking, and operational planning.



Highlights

- We had the opportunity to tour the IT-Army Officers School, explore important locations in the city.
- Multicultural atmosphere and better understanding of Italian culture and traditions.





- **Improve problem-solving and analytical thinking skills;**
- **Stronger public speaking and argumentation abilities through presentations and group discussions;**
- **The interaction with both military and civilian students offered me new perspectives on leadership, communication, and cooperation in an international environment.**

SHIFTS AND CODES - PROBLEM

The international organization November is monitoring Foxtrot's cyberactivities, in the interest of Alpha, Bravo, and the other nations present in the area.

Unfortunately for Foxtrot, some of its junior members are naively exchanging messages without really securing the communication, by using monoalphabetic ciphers.

November's personnel do not know this, but while intercepting the messages, they leave open the possibility to use various means to decrypt them, including simpler ones.

a. One of the operators in charge of the interceptions retrieved the following message:

"Johyspl pz nvpun av pualuzpmf zbwwvya av aol nylf gvul, wslhzi zwyllk kpzpumvythapvu if lewvzpun wylzbtik wvssbapvu lmljaz vm paz pukbzayphs hjapcpaf".

What did the sender mean with that message?

b. A Foxtrot's junior member tries to encrypt a message with a scheme that recalls an affine cipher, but by "doubling" each letter, that is operating the substitutions $A \rightarrow A$ ($0 \rightarrow 0$), $B \rightarrow C$ ($1 \rightarrow 2$), $C \rightarrow E$ ($2 \rightarrow 4$), and so on. What happens when decryption on such a message is attempted?

c. The "doubling" scheme is applied to a 5-letter word, resulting in an encrypted string of the same length. How many different 5-letter words of the plaintext (regardless of them having meaning), if encrypted with the doubling scheme, result in the same string as ciphertext?

d. The *Vernam cipher*, or *one-time pad* (OTP), is a special case of the Vigenère cipher in which the keyword and the message have the same length. Albeit less practical than simpler ciphers, it bears the advantage of avoiding the very weaknesses of methods with shorter keys.

A smarter member of Foxtrot wants to encrypt a message by using this ciphering method, claiming that it guarantees absolute secrecy for sure, regardless of any other consideration.

Is it true, or is it anyway important to pay some attention toward certain details? Namely, is there a nontrivial key that does not allow complete security? In the case, write an example of it.



Recommendations

- **Interdisciplinary activities that combine military and civilian perspectives, as this greatly improves creativity and teamwork.**
- **More practical simulations and shorter, highly interactive modules would also increase participant engagement and make the learning process more effective.**





- **Scientific Research: Presenting papers at SECOSAFT and CADET INOVA conferences.**
- **Institutional Presentation: Promoting the home university to international peers.**
- **Academic Exchange: Attending scientific sections and official rector briefings.**
- **Knowledge Sharing: Engaging in debates within specialized academic groups.**





Highlights

- **Cultural Discovery:** Guided tours of Sibiu, Alba Iulia Citadel, and ASTRA Museum.
- **Military Tradition:** Participation in formal flag-raising ceremonies at the Academy.
- **Social Networking:** Team-building through a formal Official Dinner.
- **Academic Events:** Dedicated World Book Day workshop and scientific sessions.



Benefits

- **Professional Growth:** Improved public speaking and scientific writing skills.
- **Intercultural Skills:** Effective communication within an international military context.
- **Networking:** Building a professional circle of international defense students.
- **Soft Skills:** Enhanced adaptability, time management, and team collaboration.



Recommendations

- **Interactive Sessions:** Add more Q&A time after scientific presentations.
- **Digital Tools:** Use a mobile app for real-time updates and document sharing.
- **Student Mentors:** Implement a "buddy system" with local students for better integration.
- **Cultural Fusion:** Include a national evening for students to share their own culture





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**thank YOU
for YOUR
attention!**

attention!

