

**OPENING WORDS OF MAJOR GENERAL TODOR DOTCHEV,  
COMMANDANT OF RAKOVSKI NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE**

*LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,*

*Allow me to congratulate all the participants in this important event for the good neighborly relations, wishing them beneficial participation and success. The holding of this Round table on the topic “The beginning of the Bulgarian – Romanian Military Friendship” with Bulgarian and Romanian participants is an example of the traditionally good bilateral cooperation.*

*Bulgarian-Romanian military, economic, cultural and educational relations were born in the Middle Ages, and were most intense between the 12th and the 14th century during the period of the Second*

*Bulgarian Empire. When Bulgaria fell under Ottoman rule, many Bulgarian clergies found protection in Romanian lands, and Grigorij Camblak with the Passionary of Ioan Novi Suchavski was among the personalities who started to use the Bulgarian language as a literary language for the Romanian aristocracy and clergy.*