



Georgian military lead landmark NATO-Georgia Exercise 2016 **Press Release**

Tbilisi, Georgia, 10 November 2016

A landmark NATO-Georgia exercise began today at a military base near Tbilisi, involving Georgian troops and 13 Allies and partners and several NATO command headquarters and affiliated centres. The exercise, a Computer Assisted/Command Post Exercise (CAX/CPX) is being held from 10-20 November at the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC) in the Krtsanisi national training centre, and will involve 250 personnel and dozens of support staff.

This is the second NATO-Georgia exercise to be held in Georgia through the framework of the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package, but the first time in which Georgian General Staff are leading a NATO multi-national crisis response exercise at the brigade level. It is also the first exercise which involves NATO planning processes from start to finish, and which kicks off a regular training cycle of more NATO- Georgia exercises.

This exercise is designed to train a Georgian-led multinational brigade headquarters staff to plan, coordinate and execute responses to military offensives and humanitarian crises, based on a realistic scenario. It is also testing the interoperability of Georgian, Allied and Partner Forces, as well as Georgian command and control capabilities. The exercise is part of standard Alliance peace time activity with partner nations in the region, aimed at enhancing mutual knowledge and armed forces coordination. It marks another step in long-standing NATO-Georgia military cooperation and reflects the mutual commitment to strong defence, interoperability and shared approaches to international security.

The brigade-level exercise is supported by NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC), Land Command (LANDCOM) and other NATO structures and affiliated centres, and hosted by the NATO-Georgia JTEC. The exercise is a component of the Substantial NATO Georgia package - a series of 13 defence capacity building measures agreed between Georgia and NATO at the Wales Summit in 2014, and strengthened at the Warsaw Summit in 2016.

The 13 participating countries include Turkey, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Belgium, Slovenia, UK, US, and Partner Nations Ukraine and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.¹ Dozens of other experts and support staff will support the exercise. The first NATO-Georgia exercise, Agile Spirit 2015, was based on an annual bilateral US-Georgia exercise that was re-designated and opened to participation of NATO Allies and partners.

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www.act.nato.int/nato-georgia-exercise-2016

^{1 1} Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.