



## NATO GEO EXERCISE 2016 IN ACTIVE PHASE

### Georgian Armed Forces train closely with NATO Allies and Partners in NATO-Georgia Exercise 2016, as senior leaders visit JTEC military base

#### Press Release

**17 November, 2016**

NATO-Georgia Exercise 2016 reached the half way point on Thursday as Georgian military forces trained with Allied Nations and Partners in planning and carrying out a crisis response operation involving support to humanitarian aid delivery.

A high-level delegation of over 130 dignitaries visited the exercise on Thursday to demonstrate support. They included senior Georgian government leaders including President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Defence Minister Levan Izoria and several other Ministers and officials. Other visitors included senior leaders from NATO Allied Command Transformation, Joint Force Training Centre, NATO Land Command, Joint Warfare Centre, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and other NATO commands and centres. International officials included Ambassadors, senior international military officials and representatives from international organisations like the European Union and International Committee of the Red Cross.

The landmark NATO-Georgia exercise is being held from 10-20 November at the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC) in Krtsanisi, near Tbilisi. It involves some 250 military personnel from the Georgian Armed forces and 13 Allied nations and partners, as well as dozens of support staff. The exercise, another milestone in NATO-Georgia military cooperation, is a Computer Assisted/Command Post Exercise (CAX/CPX) designed to train a Georgian-led multinational brigade headquarters staff in planning, coordinating and carrying out a crisis response operation in a fictitious scenario.

The exercise has involved four days of planning and three days of execution to ensure the Georgian-led multi national brigade and international staff follow NATO planning procedures and military decision making processes and also use NATO communication systems. A key priority is to ensure effective interaction with higher NATO headquarters and improved command and control capabilities within a NATO command structure. It is also enabling staff to carry out operations which facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid in an insecure environment, involving coordination with international organisations and NGOs.

NATO-Georgia Exercise 2016 will strengthen Georgia's defence capabilities and its contribution to international stabilisation missions. It also represents NATO commitment to consistently improve interoperability and cooperation with Allies and partners. This is the second NATO-Georgia exercise to be held in Georgia through the framework of the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) - 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. It is the first exercise 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.

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 13 participating countries include Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, UK, US and Partner Nations, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> and Ukraine. Dozens of other experts and support staff are supporting the exercise.

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<http://www.act.nato.int/nato-georgia-exercise-2016>

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.