



## Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Azerbaijan to expand representation in NATO



**Washington, D.C.— March 25, 2014—** Azerbaijan plans to increase the number of its officers serving in NATO in summer, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported on March 25.

Currently, seven officers of Azerbaijani Armed Forces serve in several NATO headquarters.

Also, the participation of about 900 soldiers in events in the framework of the NATO Individual Partnership was considered in 2014.

Eighty one of these events are scheduled to take place in foreign countries, while nine in Azerbaijan.

Last year, over a thousand Azerbaijani soldiers took part in 100 events under this program.

During the events, the defense strategy issues, military training, military training, logistics, international humanitarian law, budget and resource management and other issues were in focus.

### **Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation within IPAP**

Azerbaijan has also prepared and submitted for approval to the NATO a bill on the fourth stage of the program IPAP (Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO), which covers 2014-2015.

Meetings were held within the framework of IPAP and the Planning and Review Process (PAP) in Baku and

Brussels on the analysis of tasks and actions of the partnership in the 28 +1 format with the international headquarters of NATO, the Defense Ministry told [Trend](#) Agency.

Twenty eight of the 42 Partnership Goals adopted by Azerbaijan within PAP refers to the Armed Forces (General-18, Land Forces-5, Navy-1 and Air Force-4). The country has already completed some of the Goals and the relevant work is underway on the implementation of the other long-term objectives of the partnership.

The peacekeeping forces, platoon for search and rescue operations, medical platoon, Engineer-Sapper Platoon and a helicopter group was detached for participation in peacekeeping operations conducted by NATO in the framework of the document PAP.

Defense Ministry has successfully implemented the first three stages of IPAP, which covered 2005-2007, 2008-2010 and 2011-2013 years. The Military Doctrine was adopted in 2010 and Strategy for Maritime Security was adopted in 2013 in accordance with the commitments under the IPAP.

NATO and Azerbaijan are actively cooperating on democratic, institutional, and military reforms, and enjoy practical cooperation in various areas. The cooperation plan between Azerbaijan and the NATO is set out in the IPAP on Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan aspires to achieve Euro-Atlantic standards and get closer to Euro-Atlantic institutions. In this regard, supporting reform in the security sector and establishing democratic institutions are the key elements of the NATO-Azerbaijan cooperation.

The Azerbaijani peacekeeping contingent in Afghanistan doubled in 2009. Currently, some 90 Azerbaijani servicemen are serving in ISAF. A company and then a battalion of peacekeepers were established as part of the Azerbaijani armed forces in 1997.

In the past, Azerbaijan has also actively supported the NATO's operations in Kosovo.

### **Azerbaijan boost military cooperation**

Azerbaijan holds discussions on signing of memorandums and agreements that constitute the legal framework in the military sphere with 26 more countries.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry seeks to further develop and expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation with international organizations and foreign countries in military sphere.

Currently, Azerbaijan enjoys military cooperation on the bilateral basis with Turkey, U.S., Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Pakistan, China, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Israel, Romania, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, Qatar, Belgium, France, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Switzerland, Korea, etc.

During the year, averagely 300-400 different language courses and specialization, workshops, seminars, conferences, study tours, staff talks, consultations and other activities are held within the framework of the bilateral military cooperation, in which some 1,500 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces participate.

For more information, please visit the Alliance website at [www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org](http://www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org)

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