



Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATO observers praise training of Azerbaijani servicemen



Washington, D.C— May 9, 2014--"Garaheybat 2014" trainings of the Azerbaijani armed forces under NATO program ended on May 8.

The field trainings were held as part of the Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) in order to achieve a high level of coordination with NATO forces, Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said.

The exercise, which started on May 5 at Garaheybat Training Center, evaluated in five areas by the international and national observers.

The field exercises included about 900 soldiers of the armed forces, 100 military equipments and four helicopters.

The international observers highly appreciated the training, knowledge and skills of personnel that took part in the training.

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 Individual Partnership Action Plan (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.

The Working Group of the U.S. Congress on Azerbaijan which has operated since 2004, plays a special role in the development of relations between Azerbaijan and the United States. For more information, please visit the Alliance website at www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org

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