

Fact Sheet on NATO-Russia Military Cooperation

Military-to-military cooperation 2006 - 2007

- Over the past 18 months the NATO-Russia Council at Military Representative level (MilReps of the 26 allies and RUS) has met monthly to progress NATO/Russia military-to-military cooperation, including three sessions involving the NATO chiefs of defence. There are regular staff meetings with Russian participation of mutual experts on issues of common interest, such as defence reform, proliferation, nuclear matters, arms control, airspace and peacekeeping.

These annual work plans cover all areas of military-to-military cooperation including:

- exercises and training
- theatre missile defence
- naval cooperation
- search and rescue at sea
- logistics cooperation
- academic contacts and exchanges

70 of 82 planned activities in the 2006 work plan were achieved. Some of the field training goals set out in the NATO-Russia interoperability framework programme have been postponed to a later date. Approximately a 17 of the 83 planned activities scheduled for 2007 have already been conducted successfully.

Key areas demonstrating practical NATO-Russia military-to-military cooperation:

• Combatting terrorism:

- **Operation Active Endeavour¹**: An important milestone in NATO's military relationship with the Russian Federation, when the Russian vessel, **PITLIVIY** joined the operation in Sept 06, marked the first truly combined NATO-Russia force deployment. Russia continues to participate in the operation's liaison and information exchange components, and an additional Russian ship is engaged in combined pre-deployment training with a view to an operational deployment in Autumn.
- **NATO Maritime visits** to Russian ports are in the planning stages.
- **The Intelligence Liaison Unit** is now operative and intelligence exchange is ongoing.

• Exercises and training:

- A communications exercise in unclassified voice and data communications took place in May 06. The exercise has helped to identify problems in equipment incompatibility and security legislation.

¹ NATO's only Article V operation, and involves ships from several NATO nations patrolling the Mediterranean, monitoring shipping and providing escorts to help detect, deter and protect against terrorist activity.

- A military transport aviation live exercise took place in Jul 06 in Ramstein, Germany, to practice interoperability in the use of large Russian transport aviation assets. As a result of the exercise, technically simple and inexpensive solutions were identified for problems encountered.
- A Special Operations Forces live exercise - scheduled to take place in Sep 06, in Pskov, Russia has been rescheduled to take place in 2008 and will be hosted by France. A follow-on Command Post Exercise is planned for 2009.
- A fuels interoperability exercise planning workshop took place in Sept 06 in Budapest, Hungary in preparation for a practical exercise to be held in 2007.

- **Theatre Missile Defence**

A third Command Post Exercise took place in Moscow in Oct 06. About 60 personnel took part from 11 NATO nations, hosted by Russia, laying the foundations for a live exercise in this field in the future.

- **Search and Rescue at Sea**

Russia continued to participate effectively in naval technical groups throughout 2006, including the NATO Industrial Advisory Group, the Maritime Capability Group on ship design & mobility, and the Helicopter Operations Working Group. The latter proved to be very useful for preparation training for participation in Operation Active Endeavour.

- **Academic exchange**

Several workshops have been hosted by NATO, with the participation of leading Russian professors and high ranking military staff at the NATO Defence College in Rome. The College also hosted a programme of lectures by Russian officers in November 2006 and plans are under consideration for a Fellowship Programme.

- **Logistics**

Pending the ratification of the status of forces agreement, the development of transit/host nation support agreements is stalled. The emphasis has now shifted to developing the legal framework for support arrangements to facilitate forces deploying on joint operations and exercises.

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