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### The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package

The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) aims to strengthen Georgia's ability to defend itself and advance its preparations for NATO membership. The package is composed of defence and related security capacity building initiatives. It involves support for all military services and branches, advice and liaison at all levels (strategic, operational, tactical), capacity-building and training activities, and multinational exercises. As of early 2022, all NATO members and two partner countries have provided support to the implementation of the package in the form of expertise and resources.

#### **NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre**

The Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC) is one of 16 interrelated initiatives under the SNGP. Endorsed at the NATO Summit in Wales in August 2014, the Centre was inaugurated by Georgian leaders and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in 2015 at its new headquarters at Support Centre "Krtsanisi", where it remains as part of Georgia's Training and Military Education Command. The JTEC has four subordinate centres: the Combat Training Centre, the Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre, the Training Evaluation Centre and the Command and Staff Training Centre.



The JTEC is designed to assist Georgia in reforming, modernising and strengthening its security and defence forces, institutions and structures. It also serves to enhance the Georgian forces' ability to operate effectively alongside forces from other countries. From its inception, active military personnel from NATO member and partner countries have participated alongside Georgian soldiers in the training centre's activities. Today, the JTEC also responds to the training and readiness needs of partner countries, enabling Georgia to contribute to stability in the region and beyond.

At its core, the JTEC provides training to and evaluation of brigades, battalions, companies and platoons with an emphasis on mission command and combined arms (an approach that seeks to integrate multiple capabilities, for instance deploying infantry and armour in an urban environment). The JTEC has also proven itself capable of hosting multinational exercises. In 2016 and 2019, the Centre hosted the NATO-Georgia Exercise involving military personnel from Allies, partners and several NATO command headquarters and affiliated centres. Preparations are underway for the JTEC to host the third NATO-Georgia Exercise in March 2022.

In November 2020, the NATO Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC) and JTEC signed a partnership agreement. The agreement marks another milestone in NATO-Georgia cooperation. It sets the overarching framework for cooperation between the two centres and ensures continuous support to JTEC development as a NATO-affiliated training centre. In addition to codifying partnership objectives, the agreement brings an embedded team of NATO advisors under the operational control of JFTC to help facilitate engagement and cooperation with numerous stakeholders in NATO, partner countries, bilaterally and in the Georgian Defence Forces. This advisory group is led by Norway and includes representation from the armed forces of Hungary, Lithuania and the United Kingdom.

The JTEC benefits from the support of NATO's Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Trust Fund. Within this framework, the JTEC has received financial assistance from several NATO members, partner countries and bilaterally to develop its capacity and capabilities. The JTEC plans to pursue Trust Fund support to develop capabilities for computer-assisted command post exercises.

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