



Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP)

Introduction

The Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) is a set of measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening Georgia's defence capabilities and developing closer security cooperation and interoperability with NATO Members. The SNGP includes support to 13 different areas of the defence and security-related sectors, and across all military services and branches. It involves strategic level advice and liaison, defence capacity-building and training activities, multi-national exercises and enhanced interoperability opportunities.

As of Spring 2016, some 20 NATO Members and Partner States have provided generous support to the implementation of the package in the form of expertise and resources.

Deepening NATO-Georgia Cooperation

The SNGP is building on a solid foundation of NATO-Georgia cooperation which has grown since the early 1990s. In recent years, this has been strengthened through mechanisms such as the NATO-Georgia Commission, Military Committee with Georgia and NATO Liaison Office, as well as through many capacity-building and partnership programmes. In addition, Georgia and NATO discuss progress in priority reforms in a broad range of areas, through a jointly agreed Annual National Programme.

At the NATO Wales Summit in September 2014, Allied Heads of State and Government further deepened this partnership by identifying Georgia as one of five countries eligible for enhanced cooperation and dialogue opportunities with the Alliance, and endorsing the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package. With these decisions, Allies recognised Georgia's significant contributions to NATO operations and Alliance objectives, such as NATO missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo, the counter-terrorism maritime surveillance operation 'Active Endeavour' in the Mediterranean and NATO's Response Force (NRF). Thanks to the SNGP, Georgia is a primary beneficiary of NATO's Defence Capacity Building Initiative, set up to project international stability through concrete support and activities with key nations.

The SNGP is strengthening Georgia's ability to ensure security for its people. It is also enhancing Georgia's participation in future international missions, and its opportunities to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security. In broader terms, the measures constitute another tool to help Georgia advance in its preparations for eventual NATO membership.

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A Comprehensive Approach

The SNGP comprises measures at the strategic, tactical and operational levels across 13 areas including strategic and operational planning, aviation, air defence, maritime security, strategic communications, special operations, military police, cyber defence, acquisition and procurement, and intelligence-sharing. The SNGP also includes the establishment of a Defence Institution Building School, NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre and Logistics Facility, and the facilitation of multi-national and regional exercises.



The 13 areas of support are managed by Project Team Leaders and experts, who work with counterparts in the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces, Ministry of Internal Affairs and other related ministries and institutions, to build expertise and encourage key reforms. The SNGP implementation process is managed by a Core Team who provide guidance and coherence to the projects and ensure necessary coordination and resources. The SNGP Core Team is based at Georgia's Ministry of Defence in Tbilisi.

SNGP Implementation

In the first phase of implementation in 2014-15, SNGP achieved its declared goals of establishing a Core Team and launching all projects, through concept development and intense collaboration between NATO and Georgian experts. Exercise Agile Spirit was held in July 2015 - the first NATO-Georgia military exercise open to partners - and the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre was inaugurated. From 2016 onwards, all initiatives are being developed further, at varying paces and in differing scales, subject to resources, requirements and other factors.



Key Projects in Progress

NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTREC)

The JTREC is a combined NATO-Georgia project based on Georgian and regional needs and complementary to existing training programmes, policies and doctrines. It is tasked with strengthening the capabilities of Georgia's defence and security sector in addressing a range of threats, as well as improving the interoperability of Georgian and Allied Forces which will enable them to work together more effectively on operations.



The JTREC is offering tactical training and evaluation, and contributing to the development of Georgia's command and leadership philosophy. The JTREC is also enhancing regional security cooperation, by offering unique training opportunities to NATO and regional partners.

Activities include promotion of effective inter-agency coordination in response to security challenges; the facilitation of national, bilateral and multilateral exercises; and training, evaluation and certification activities, supported by the use of modern training technologies – live, virtual and constructive simulation.

Rotational training of Georgian military units began in May 2016. This ongoing series of exercises will endeavour to provide rigorous and challenging training opportunities to the majority of companies of the Georgian Armed Forces. The JTREC is also continuing to provide support to all joint exercises between troops from Georgia, NATO and Partner Nations.

JTEC Inauguration, 27 August 2015

The NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre was inaugurated in 2015 by Georgian leaders and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, at its new headquarters in Krtsanisi, where it is now part of Georgia's Training and Military Education Command.



Defence Institution Building School

The Georgian Defence Institution Building School will offer professional development programmes and quality training to support institutional reforms and good governance of the defence and security sector, including the civil service. It is building on training currently offered through the Defence Ministry's Professional Development Centre, under the auspices of the National Defence Academy, as well as NATO-supported capacity building initiatives such as the NATO-Georgia Professional Development Programme.

Training modules will focus on effective defence and security management, regional security issues, leadership development, international humanitarian law, accountability for the Armed Forces, building integrity and reducing corruption risks, strategic communications, gender issues, and other topics. Through collaborative workshops, the School will encourage the exchange of information with national and international stakeholders on best practises in the defence arena, including discussion of Georgia's defence transformation experience and successes. Its aim is also to support an inter-agency approach in responding to various security threats and challenges.

Logistics Facility

This project is designed to facilitate the reception and movement of NATO and Partner forces, equipment and supplies during participation in military training and exercises, crisis management operations and NATO-led and other international operations. This initiative is also supporting the training of the Georgian Armed Forces and the activities of the Joint Training and Evaluation Centre.

Strategic and Operational Planning

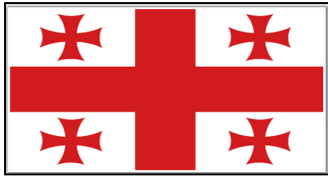
Within this project, NATO and Georgian officials are reviewing and developing defence policies and strategic and operational military planning documents, doctrines and procedures. This includes planning materials for combat and crisis management operations, as well as joint and multinational exercises. Training seminars are helping familiarise Georgian military planners with NATO operational planning processes.



Strategic Communications

This area of support is developing the strategic communications capability of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces, in order to demonstrate transparency and promote security-related policies and activities to key audiences and stakeholders at home and abroad. Coordination across Government in communicating security issues as part of an overall Government vision and inter-agency security approach is being developed.

All other initiatives are in various stages of development and will be advanced in the coming months. They all involve the assessment of Georgia's capabilities, resources and needs; the evaluation of relevant doctrines, plans and procedures; and practical assistance in critical areas that support Georgia's reform priorities. The SNGP is adopting a flexible approach to ensure that priorities within each area of support can be adjusted according to need, and according to changes in the evolving security environment.



SNGP Principles

Mission Statement

The SNGP Implementation Team is committed to working with Georgian decision-makers in the defence and security-related sector to implement a package of initiatives that improve Georgia's defence capabilities, enhance its interoperability with Allied forces, and advance its preparations for eventual NATO membership.

Supporting Georgia's Security Vision: The SNGP supports Georgia's vision of defence transformation, including a combat-ready Armed Forces and enhanced defence management system, on its journey towards improved security, stability and prosperity. The SNGP is building on existing infrastructure and capabilities, and is compatible with national strategies, reforms and priorities. It is designed to bring sustainable, institutionalised and long term benefits to the country's security capabilities, and management and accountability systems.

Building on Capacity-Building Experience: The SNGP is building on several years of NATO capacity building assistance provided through the Defence Education Enhancement Programme, Professional Development Programme and Building Integrity Programme, as well as the Partnership for Peace's Planning and Review Process (PARP). Bilateral cooperation between Georgia and Allied Member states has also been significant. All these initiatives have strengthened defence education and capacity in many areas, including the democratic management of security sector institutions.

Supporting Broader Reforms: The SNGP is complementing NATO support to broad reforms in the political, economic, defence, resource, security and legal arenas, as outlined in the Annual National Programme, as well as other agreed goals for defence transformation under the Planning and Review Process and the Military Committee with Georgia Work Plan.

Strengthening Defence Capabilities and Preparedness: The SNGP is strengthening Georgia's ability to react effectively to a range of security threats and challenges including disaster management.

Promoting Regional Stability: The SNGP aims to contribute to improved regional stability through bolstering defence cooperation in the wider Black Sea region and supporting regional dialogue and peace.

Advancing Interoperability: The SNGP is helping Georgia build deployable units which operate according to NATO standards and which can continue to serve effectively alongside Allied Forces in operations that address shared security challenges.



For more on NATO-Georgia Relations, go to http://nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_38988.htm

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