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PRESS RELEASE

Azerbaijani, U.S. Troops Train Side-by-Side in Romania

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On May 6, 75 soldiers from Azerbaijan's NATO Operational Capabilities Concept Battalion flew on two U.S. military planes to Constanta, Romania, where they participated in the Black Sea Rotational Force 2012 multi-lateral training exercise from May 7-18.

The troops were seen off at Nasosnaya Air Base near Baku by Colonel Daniel Grillone, U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Kelly MacDonald, Chief of the U.S. Embassy Office of Defense Cooperation, MAJ Dale Moss, Bilateral Affairs Officer from the Oklahoma National Guard and by Ministry of Defense officials, including General-Lieutenant Karim Valiyev, Baku Garrison Commander.

This is the second consecutive year that Azerbaijani soldiers have participated in the Black Sea Rotational Force, where they engaged in peacekeeping training alongside United States and Romanian troops. The exercise is overseen by

elements of the 4th United States Marine Corps Division, from San Antonio, Texas.

This deployment is the product of over one year of joint planning between the U.S. Embassy Defense Attaché Office, the U.S. European Command, and the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense. Experience gained at the Black Sea Rotational Force will enhance Azerbaijan's NATO Operational Capabilities Concept Battalion's ability to conduct coalition stability and security operations and to improve interoperability with NATO forces.

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