



PRESS RELEASE 21ST THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

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Phone: DSN 484-8184 or Commercial in Germany: 49(0)631-413-8184

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Lt. Col. Anna Friederich-Maggard
Public Affairs Officer
anna.friederichmaggard@us.army.mil
Commercial: (0631) 413-8184
DSN: (314) 484-8184

Immediate Response 2010 prepares U.S. and Georgian troops for Afghanistan

By Capt. Greg Jones, 21st Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs Office

VAZIANI TRAINING AREA, Republic of Georgia – Exercise Immediate Response 2010, a bilateral, combined exercise conducted to prepare U.S. and Republic of Georgia troops for deployments to Afghanistan, culminated with a field training exercise that teamed troops side by side to improve the interoperability of both nations.



CAPT GREG JONES

“It gives us an idea of how they work, how we work,

Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe's Company B, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment train alongside troops from the Republic of Georgia during the field training exercise that was the culminating training event of Immediate Response 2010. IR10, a bilateral U.S. and Georgian exercise designed to prepare troops of both nations for operations in Afghanistan, took place Oct. 24 - Nov. 6 at Georgia's Vaziani Training Area.

and how we can learn to work together better,” said Spc. Andrew Kirchoff, of U.S. Army Europe's Company B, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, whose unit merged with a Georgian unit during the exercise to form a combined company.

The exercise trained about 200 troops from each country and was specifically geared toward the kind of counterinsurgency operations the troops



STAFF SGT JOHN ETHERIDGE

can expect to see in Afghanistan. Exercise events included individual and small-unit

Soldiers from the armed forces of the Republic of Georgia take up positions to clear an area of opposing forces during a company-level field exercise during Immediate Response 2010, at the Georgia's Vaziani Training Area. Immediate Response is a combined U.S. and Georgian exercise designed to enhance interoperability between the two armed forces for future deployments to Afghanistan.

training tasks, a live-fire exercise, and a company-level, force-on-force training exercise.

The U.S. troops came from the 2nd SCR and several other USAREUR units, including 21st Theater Sustainment Command; the Joint Multinational Readiness Center; and Headquarters, USAREUR, as well as the U.S. Marine Corps' 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; the Utah Army National Guard; the Georgia Air National Guard; the U.S. Army Reserve; the U.S. Air Force; and the U.S. Navy.

The exercise began with basic battle drills and platoon-level situational training exercises. Troops of both nations also familiarized themselves with each other's weapons nation during a live-fire exercise. Finally, troops merged into a combined U.S. and Georgian company under the direction of the 2nd SCR. The opposing force -- the "enemy" for the training -- was combined as well, with U.S. Marines and Georgian troops fighting side by side.

“They came out here and worked together, ate together, spent a lot of time together,” said Sgt. 1st Class George Hutchinson, a JMRC exercise observer-controller. “They knew each other pretty well in a matter of days. It’s great knowing they’ll be able to fight together in whatever combat area they go to.”

The Immediate Response series of exercises has partnered U.S. forces with forces from countries throughout the region. This year's exercise was the third Immediate Response exercise conducted with Georgia. Past events have been conducted with Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Georgia. The focus of these exercises is to continue to improve the ability of participating nations to execute joint and multinational operations together. This year's exercise was focused on preparing U.S. and Georgian troops for upcoming deployments in support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

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