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Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



COOPERATIVE ARCHER 2007 Press Release

NATO / PfP Cooperation Exercise got started



At 1000 hours (Georgian local time) on Wednesday, 11 July 2007, Polish Colonel Kazimierz Dynski from Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein conducted the opening ceremony for the NATO/PfP exercise Cooperative Archer 2007 (COAR07) at Alekseevka Military Airbase in the southeast of Tbilisi, Georgia.

In addition to distinguished visitors including the Georgian Chief of the Joint Staff, Colonel Zaza Gogava, the Polish Exercise Director addressed the participants from five NATO member nations, eight Partner Nations and Jordan, a member of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue. The ceremony of what is NATO's first exercise in the country was covered by both international and national media representatives.

In his speech, Colonel Dynski underscored the importance of conducting the exercise in a safe manner and in compliance with existing rules and directives. According to him it was paramount to take a look at how allies and partners implement crisis response measures and to focus on how to further improve each other's approach in that field. He encouraged all NATO and non-NATO participants to make sure the learning goes in both directions.

Georgian Air Force Commander, Colonel David Nairashvili, in his welcome remarks explained that the Caucasus republic has very specific objectives for the exercise including deployability, search and rescue and aeromedical evacuation and humanitarian cargo airdrop. He also hoped that COAR 07 will help to build mutual confidence and understanding of other countries' cultures and traditions.



Aircrews from the 13 participating nations and the exercise staff were gathered outside an aircraft hangar at Alekseevka Airbase adjacent to Tbilisi's airport waiting to start training activities. A workshop will be conducted during the first week in preparation of the live-fly exercise in the second week.

"Fly safely, follow the rules closely and focus on learning opportunities", as Colonel Dynski said, can be regarded as the motto for exercise Cooperative Archer 2007. NATO's first ever exercise in Georgia will last until 19 July.

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