



Captains' Retraining Course Came to an End



Officers have recently finished the Captains Career Courses. Successful completion of the training program was designated within the territory of National Academy in a solemn environment. The Captains were congratulated with the successful completion of the training courses implemented under the NATO standards, by the Deputy Defence Minister Shalva Kochladze, the Head of Education Department of GAF Joint Staff, Major Lasha Beridze, the Head of National Academy, Col. Roin Failodze, and other officials. At the ceremony, the Officers were handed over the relevant diplomas and decorations.

The ceremony was attended by the Chaplain of the Academy, Father Mose, who gave his blessing to the Officers. Prior to it, the

attendees held one minute's silence in remembrance of the servicemen, who bravely perished during the Russia-Georgia war.

The military studies, which involved specialized skills of maneuvering, artillery, engineering, logistics, and aviation, lasted from November 17 2008 through April 16.

Throughout the 20 weeks, up to 69 Officers mastered the skills of joint military tactics, subunits management and making strategic decisions. The Officers will be deployed to their own dislocation places according to subunits.

Courses of a similar type are planned to commence in the summer, which will be aimed at the development of ways and skills of carrying on the combat operations by the Head of the Company, Battalion and Bri-

gade Staff Officers along with their practical application.

According to the Chief of the Course, Kakha Chapodze, the duration of the courses will presumably increase to up to 23 weeks (in the past this period covered 20 weeks). Furthermore, the training program is proposed to be further updated and will additionally include the development of leadership skills, military law and war history. Within the battalion base, it is scheduled to carry out three different Staff studies, which will be attended by the listeners of maneuvering, logistics, and engineering, artillery and aviation career courses. They will jointly provide the plans of combat activities and will check the synchronous operations of Staffs.

Shalva Londaridze

Supreme Commander-in Chief Visited the Military Cemetery

The Supreme Commander-in Chief visited the Military Cemetery in Mukhatgverdi settlement, paying tribute to fallen soldiers by bringing Easter eggs to their graves. Easter Monday in Georgia is marked with a memorial for the departed. Followed by, Chief of the Joint Staff of GAF, Major General Devi Tchankotadze, his deputy Brigadier General Davit Nairashvili and other leadership of the MOD visited Mukhatgverdi Military Cemetery on Easter Monday.

President Mikheil Saakashvili, together with Defence Minister, Vasil Sikharulidze, viewed the site, where the church of 100,000 martyrs and the memorial of Georgian heroes will be raised. Special service, conducted in Mukhatgverdi Military Cemetery in memory of the perished soldiers was attended by their family members and relatives.

In his remarks President Saakashvili talked about the combative spirit in the army. According to him, now more people are willing to join the army, than before the August war.

"A professional army has been

established in Georgia and people join it, knowing very well, that they may need to sacrifice their lives for the motherland, and their families support them in this decision. Today there is a longer queue of those willing to enroll in the army, than it was before the war. Combative spirit has not decreased in Georgia; moreover it has further increased because of the self-sacrifice of our soldiers and it is a source of great hope for me. We will accomplish their deeds and no one should have any doubt about it," he said.

"Looking at these families, I understand how such sons have grown up in these families, whom have not abandoned their positions and who have not hesitated to sacrifice their lives; just look how dignified these families are; we have not heard from these families not a single word of complaint; they are proud of their sons, and when we were doing something for these families, they were accepting it with appreciation and were saying nothing except of words of gratitude," Saakashvili said.

"We had to certainly come to the cemetery and pay honor to

the fallen heroes today. They sacrificed their lives for a liberty and an independent statehood." - Defence Minister of Georgia stated in his comment.

Later, the same day the President of Georgia rewarded the Georgian Generals. Mikheil Saakashvili invested with the St. George's Victory Orders Chief of the Joint Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces, Major General Devi Tchankotadze and his Deputy Brigadier General Davit Nairashvili.

The President once more commended the bravery of the Georgian military servicemen, doctors as well as the peaceful population in his speech at the awarding solemn ceremony. He expressed his thanks to the Georgian Army and Generals for courage and uncompromising battles to protect the country from Russian aggression.

During the Georgian-Russian war, Major General Devi Tchankotadze was in command of the Georgian Artillery units and Brigadier General Davit Nairashvili was performing his duty as a commander of the Georgian Air Forces.



VCM – Most Efficient Competence Management System for MoD Personnel

Considering the challenges of the 21st Century and the management principles of modern Human Resources, the strategic importance of organizations, fused with the necessity to establish effective management mechanisms of human resources, such a system aims to increase professionalism within personnel and rational use of existing potential. Human Resources are the cornerstone in carrying out strategic purposes.

The effective management of human resources is one of the main policies for the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. Integration policy towards NATO requires rapid reformation processes at the MOD. Hence, NATO supports the establishment and de-

velopment of effective systems at the Defence Ministry with the purpose of improving Human Resource Management Systems. Because of this, a new, NATO interoperable, modern standard electronic system of civil personnel management – Verkerk Competence Management (VCM) is under formation at the Georgian Defence Ministry. The VCM system will promote the development quality of work performed by civil personnel at the Ministry. The system also provides the effective management of personnel, their orientation towards the organization's goals and their rational usage.

The VCM system supplies career management and effective achievement of planning

process based on personnel competencies. Competence consists of character, common sense, skills and abilities, knowledge, experience and behavior of each person. Competence management means the balanced usage of the mentioned qualities of personnel. It provides orientation of the civil servant, with the organization's purposes, rules and strategies. The competence of each employee can be evaluated according to special tests, which also determine abilities of professional development. Such attitudes will ensure that all tasks will be carried out with maximum success and by the appropriate person for the job.

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“We put an investment in education that will provide its real fruit in future”

“Minister’s Vision 2009”, the general guidance document for the Ministry of Defence, Joint Staff and Georgian Armed Forces for 2009, among other priorities, highlighted a special emphasis on improvement of military education and training systems. To meet this necessary proposal there is already planned number of actions in the Defence sector. One of the most important projects is the Multi-Annual Training Program for the High-Qualified Officers of Georgian Armed Forces.

The aim of program is to increase the number of high-qualified Officers in the Georgian Armed Forces and is dedicated to the students, studying at the Accredited State Educational Institutions of Georgia and interested in serving in the GAF. “The most important thing that we want to achieve with is program, is manning the GAF with high-qualified intellectual officers. This is a long-term prospective that needs the recruitment of knowledgeable youth, with Bachelor’s Degrees, in order to create a professional officers’ corps with appropriate civil education,” stated Major Lasha Beridze, Commander of the Military Education and Training Command.



The development of a legislative basis to harmonize military and civilian education systems has already started at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. This will enable both military and civil persons to find their niche, wherever they will be serving. As mentioned by Major Beridze, those persons, who graduated from military institutions, found it impossible to find job in the civil sector, and were generally not well integrated in social life. Currently, modern standards, accepted by developed world and NATO member states, are different and demand higher civil education for officers. Obviously, military professional training is absolutely necessary, but it should be accompanied by suitable civil qualifications.

The Multi-Annual Training Program for the High-Qualified Officers adjusts according to global practice, needs and change. Such systems are accepted in our partner states, such as the USA, Turkey and many other European countries. In The United States it is known as the Reserve Officers Course. A Commander of the Military Education and Training Command shared with us the details of the program stating, participants of the program will be students of Georgian Educational Institutions, who will

pass Unified National Exams throughout the year and will receive 70% up to 100 % of state financial grants. This means that only those with highest level of knowledge can take part in the selection process, with proper physical condition and motivation to serve for the Georgian Armed Forces after they complete their Bachelor’s program. Major Beridze noted that during the first four years of the program, the most important concern is to ensure students concentrate on their Bachelor’s studies, while at the same time being morally prepared to serve in military forces. In these circumstances, a special curriculum will be worked out for them, according to which participants will receive basic knowledge about military science. Also, they will have some military training as well, but on a very modest level. After graduating from institutions they will pass several Officer Courses in the Defence Academy, to become professional officers and commanders of platoon. Then, according to the contract, program participants will serve in the GAF for 5 years, after which they will have the choice, on where to pursue further career – in civil or military sectors. “Of course it would be better if they prefer to stay in military sector; much of

them will make such decision, and we will have more qualified Armed Forces. Anyway, after completing this program, the country will receive educated persons, with military experience, who can be used in every direction, for example in Reserve program. These people will be already trained personal for strong National Reserve. We put an investment in education that will give its real fruit in future. We have direct commands from Defence Minister and Chief of Joint Staff, to work in this direction with all our potential. This program will fill the gap, where we are lacking those professionals in GAF, which is very important. That includes engineers, communication specialists, loggers, good managers and so on. Listed specializations are a priority for the new program, but we do not have any restrictions and will welcome students with various directions”, said Major Beridze.

There is number of motivating factors that will attract young people to participate in the Multi-Annual Training Program for the High-Qualified Officers. During their Bachelor’s studies students will receive a monthly stipend, in the amount of 300 GEL. As mentioned before, after graduation from civil institutions the participant must pass the professional officer’s course, and most importantly, have gained broader perspective and understanding of career prospects. As stated by Major Beridze, there are always many options for educated people in the Armed Forces. They have the possibility of professional as

well as academic growth, in achieving the highest ranks. “Nowadays it’s not easy to find a job, even if you graduated from a popular institute; competition is very active as well. So, when we offer people guaranteed employment, with high remuneration and clear future prospects, it is not surprising, that there is a lot of interest. In the few days since we have announced the program, a lot of people are calling already. We have a special center where citizens can receive information about program details”, clarified Major Beridze.

The Ministry of Defence of Georgia will sign special agreements with those institutions, from which students will participate in the program. As well as critical cooperation between the MOD and the Ministry of Education and Science, they have established an inter-structural working group which discusses all the related issues. Firstly, the goal is to create a legislative basis, which shall add military education to the overall system of state education. “We already held a meeting in Tbilisi State University and plan to continue such meetings with other institutions. We will collaborate with Georgian Technical University, the Aviation Institute, and the State Medical University, etc. I want to mention, that everyone is very motivated to participate in this program, because it is in their interest also to have as much as possible employed alumni. And to say broadly, it is not only about the MOD, it is about whole county, as this program intends to prepare professionals for

long-term future”, highlighted Commander of the Military Education and Training Command.

Major Beridze also spoke about the infrastructural and technical improvement in Defence educational centers. According to the Minister’s instructions, capital repairs in the Defence Academy have already started. This will create an appropriate environment to prepare officers and captains in a proper manner and also gives an opportunity for opening 4 year Bachelor’s program and command and staff courses for officers – both are very important directions of military education reform. To highlight some timeframes: repairs are expected to finish in 2010 and command and staff courses will be opened in 2011. Bachelor’s program should be put into action. Lastly, in the Krtsanisi Educational Center, other advanced technologies will be built-in. Overall, there will be some renewal in each educational center, which gives opportunity to achieve the maximum effect with minimum effort.

While discussing “Minister’s Vision 2009” diplomats, experts and politicians were unequivocal in mentioning that the most pleasant point was to see education as a top priority. In today’s world, it is most important, and now state policy, to have well-qualified professional army. Multi-Annual Training Program for the High-Qualified Officers of Georgian Armed Forces is one very important step in this direction that hopefully will achieve stated goals and success.

Ana Alania



Memorandum of Partnership

The Ministry of Defence of Georgia and the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) has concluded the Memorandum of Partnership. The Memorandum was signed between the Defence Minister, Vasil Sikharulidze and the Dean of Governance of the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs Maka Ioseliani. The signing ceremony was held at GIPA office, and was attended by the First Deputy Defence Minister, Vladimir Chachibaia.

The Defence Minister in his statement stressed the importance of the signed Memorandum. “It is significant to sign such a kind of Memorandum. We truly believe that our partnership with the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs will be productive and valuable for both sides.”

Maka Ioseliani stated that Memorandum of Partnership signifies common



initiatives in various directions. “Education of skilled and ethical civil servants and promotion of effective management is the main mission of our institute. The School of Government will maintain the improvement of personnel’s qualifications of MOD. For this purpose, our institute will conduct special trainings, and the School of Government will provide MOD with translated and prepared literature”- declared Maka Ioseliani.

Furthermore, under this document the MOD will invite students willing to undergo practical training. The students and experts of GIPA will participate in analytical working groups. The Georgian Institute of Public Affairs will allow special facilities to the staff of the Ministry to pass certificated courses offered by GIPA.

“Memorandum of Partnership” is a continuation of cooperation between GIPA and MOD, and on May 17, 2007, GIPA and the MOD signed the Memorandum of Understanding, setting the ground for comprehensive cooperation in areas of teaching, dialogue and policy analysis. According to the Memorandum, the MOD took responsibilities to engage its high-ranking officials and its international partners to lecture on the matters of defence and military affairs at GIPA. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding signified an important milestone in Civil-Military Relations in Georgia.

These two documents once more underline the importance of education, which is one of the main policy priorities of MOD.

Irakli Gurgenzidze



US military frigate USS KLAKRING made a port call in Batumi

The US military frigate USS KLAKRING made a port call in the territorial waters of Georgia in the beginning of April. During the visit, theoretical and practical trainings were carried out for representatives of the Georgian coastguard at the Batumi port. The crew of the Klakring engaged in training exercises along side Georgian sailors, demonstrating the approach and boarding of suspicious vessels, and conducting emergency drills. The US military men performed fire extinguishing and boarding operations. Vessel searching and terrorist capturing operations were simulated as well. It was for the first time the USS Klakring entered Black Sea waters.

USS Klakring (FFG-42), an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate, is a ship of the United States Navy named for Rear Admiral Thomas B. Klakring (1904–1975), who was awarded three Navy Crosses as Commander of the submarine USS Guardfish (SS-217) during World War II.

Klakring was laid down on February 19, 1982 by the Bath Iron Works Corp. of Bath, Maine; launched on 18 September 1982; sponsored by Beverly Bohlen, a niece of R. Adam. Klakring; and commissioned on 20 August 1983 in Bath, Commander Leonard O. Wahlig in command. As of 2006, Klakring is home ported at NAVSTA Mayport, Florida, and is part of Destroyer Squadron 14. Klakring participated in Operation Earnest Will, in the Persian Gulf in 1987, as the first air-capable, air-embarked

ship. Klakring participated in Operation Prime Chance, in the Persian Gulf, during the "Tanker War". Klakring is one of the surface combatants in Larry Bond's 1993 techno thriller "Cauldron".

The Georgian President, Georgian Defence Minister, Chief of JS of the Georgian Armed Forces, ambassadors and foreign military attaches accredited to Georgia and other official representatives were invited on board of USS Klakring to join the official meeting provided by the captain of USS, Commander Scott M. Smith.

Together with the Georgian Defence Minister and Chief of the Joint Staff of GAF, the reception was attended by the US Ambassador and military attaches delegated to Georgia, as well as Adjara leadership. The importance of the frigate entry in Batumi port was emphasized by the Defence Minister: "Such friendly visits are very important. They serve for maintaining a secure and stable state in the region, and the Euro-Atlantic area on one hand, and for development our military collaborations, on the other hand. Visits of this kind raise the level of security in general. I believe that this will have a positive effect on the security of Georgia, as well as the entire region."

In spite of Commander Smith's busy schedule we were able to speak with him about the mission of the visit and received brief information about the ship. "Our mission is to show the flag, to show that America and Georgia are together,

and to do some training with the Georgian Coast Guard and Border Guard". Speaking about the ship, the Captain noted that the most remarkable thing about this ship is her crew. "The ship is a ship. But it is crew that makes it excellent. And I'm very fortunate to have such a great crew. Everything from combat operations to community relations in fact we sent two guys out to the local orphanage this morning to repair some steps for the children, because they were unsafe, so we try to help out. It is those same qualities that are presented in the famous Georgian poem "Knight in the Panther's Skin" those are the same qualities. As you can see by the number of ribbons the ship has earned, this is her 12th deployment, she has been in service for 25 years, and has served throughout the world, the Middle East, the Tanker Wars, the Mediterranean, the Baltic, this is her first trip to the Black Sea, and that's fantastic. The frigates provides our naval commanders with flexibility to be deployed independently in many cases, or as a part of a battle group –strike group, we can fulfill many missions. However, our main mission right now is missions of state, to come in and show the flag to establish the friendships and partnerships with other nations."

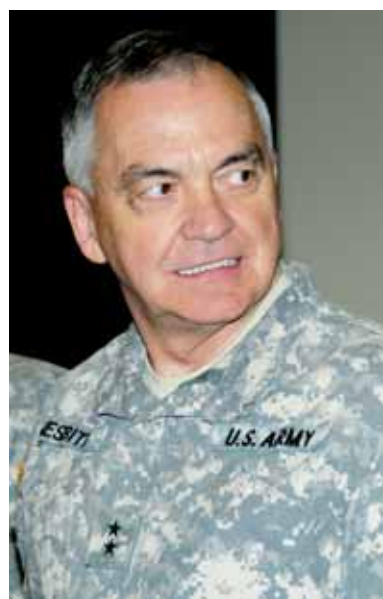
During their stopover, American sailors planted trees in a nearby village and managed to fit in a soccer game with children from the orphanage in Ureki.

David Jokhadze

The US General Visits the Defence Ministry of Georgia

The United States of America plans to provide particular assistance to the National Guard Command of Georgia in reorganizing and further improving the National Guard Reserve System. For this purpose, the Military Entity of Georgia has been visited by the National Guard Commander of the US State of Georgia, Major General William Nesbit. The American General has been received personally by the Defence Minister Vasil Sikharulidze, and met with Deputy Minister Giorgi Muchaidze, as well.

During the meeting, the participants reviewed the plans of strategic cooperation, negotiated between the US and Georgia, with special emphasis being placed on perfection of the National Guard and its Reserve System. The US Major General got acquainted with the priorities agreed upon, with respect to the further development of the Georgian Armed Forces. Furthermore, they dealt with the issues of military education and prospects of integration into NATO. After the meeting, Minister and the US



General made comments on the basic details of their conversation.

According to Minister, the Georgian National Guard enjoys long-term cooperation with the National Guard of the

US State of Georgia, adding that the visit was the demonstration of efficient bilateral cooperation.

The Minister declared as well, that they are currently busy with the reorganization of the National Guard Reserve System, and Relevant Concept is under the process of elaboration. He stated as well, that the existing plan includes two kinds of reserves; one will be military type and the other - territorial one. A focus will be put on the training level of the army, rather than on quantity. A joint unified plan is being currently designed, under which all the reservists will be trained like the soldiers of the regular Armed Forces of Georgia.

"The mutual collaboration between the sides has been successfully ongoing since 1995. We have the Partnership Program already determined and try to successfully adhere to it. The cooperation between the National Guard of Georgia and the US State is quite fruitful and productive, from which we have already received many benefits" - stated Major General William Nesbit.

Healthy Body leads to a Healthy Mind

The Ministry of Defence of Georgia is responsible for ensuring that medical services are provided to our Armed Forces. The Gori Military Hospital is a large military-medical establishment which has an opportunity to render all kinds of specialized medical aid. At service, patients are presented specialized branches of rehabilitation and intensive therapy: surgical, neurosurgical, cardiology, trauma treatment, and other fields, as well as branches for infectious diseases. Although the Gori Military Hospital was founded two years ago, military medicine has a remarkable history.

We have kindly asked the Director of the Gori Military Hospital, Doc. Nikoloz Jokhadze and his Deputy Manager of the Hospital, Mr. Tornike Arsen-

ishvili to tell us about the history of the hospital and its present potential.

As Mr. Nikoloz Jokhadze said, the hospital began functioning in May 2007, and a wide range of work has been executed during this period. Nowadays there are modern health centers, in the country, which meet European standards and requirements. According to Tornike Arsenishvili, for the last year, our establishment, due to outside budget sources, advanced its medical equipment by leading world manufacturers and has carried out training of the medical personnel within the country, as well as abroad. Some types of the equipment have no equivalent in other medical institutions in Georgia.

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The Gori Military Hospital

VCM – Most Efficient Competence Management System for MoD Personnel

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The main purpose of the VCM system is to show, on one hand, areas of a civil servant's strengths in which his/her career planning and management will be put to the best of use, while, on the other hand, weaknesses of personnel, and areas where they would not be of the best service. This method of observation mainly facilitates decision making during candidate selection process or distribution of personnel within the workplace and in future career development.

In order for the VCM System to function properly, each civil servant will pass tests. There are two kinds of tests. One of them is a general behavior analyze test which shows natural potential, behavior, motivation factors and skills of leader, implementer, analytic or organizer and others. Second is a professional development test or Assess Test, which is recommended only for leadership and shows the conformity of the person to the definite position. These kind of tests form recommendations according to the work specifics as well.

The VCM system was established a year and a half ago in the Netherlands. Georgia is the first country abroad that uses this system, and has been for the past 6 months. Concerning the efficiency of the VCM System at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, we have spoken with the founder of this system Mr. Hennie Verkerk: "The main result for the MOD personnel is to bring three things:

"The first is the chance to put better people in the right places, and in the right job. This is much higher because you are using analysis; you are using perspectives of people and not only select people. So by using this system, you really meet the capacity of people

to the jobs. The second part – is the chance to make development changes, because you can make your own development place and you can go to courses or you can serve not only for your current job, but also future one. Because the HR department can assess you're placing and look at your competencies; see if you have basic competencies, for example to be on higher post. If you have the appropriate competencies, then you can train yourself during the program. The third part gives a lot of information to HR - how is the development from the group of people we find in MoD. For example, HR has asked and there it is very important to see what are the main competencies of all people here, what is the main behavior. So you can see what the weaknesses of the group are and what the slogan points are, so we can develop as a team also in that kind of areas".

Mr. Hennie Verkerk also shared how efficiently the VCM System works in other institutions: "They are successful because all day they are developing all procedures, changes; people are happier in the job because they are more close to the work they implement; all training programs are more suitable to the development of personnel- not general trainings. So VCM is a big progress."

Within the VCM system, the work description for each position will also be elaborated, as well all the necessary skills, knowledge, behavior and experience being identified in order for the position to be fulfilled perfectly. In the event of vacant posts, the advantage is first offered to current employees. The VCM is an essential tool that will help the Ministry of Defence of Georgia to have the right people on the right place at the right time.

Tea Kerdzevadze

The servicemen studying foreign languages

Considering the prospect of full-fledged integration of Georgia into NATO, focus has been placed on soldiers having a good command of foreign languages. In order to increase the qualification of the military, dozens of NCOs and officers are annually sent to educational establishments of Europe and the US.

At the National Defence Academy, students are generally given language courses in the Joint Language Training Centre, which was founded in 2002. The Training Center targets personnel of the Armed Forces, preparing Georgian servicemen in English, French, German, Turkish and Russian languages. Since the foundation of the Training Centre, up to one thousand servicemen have attended the Training Center.

In comparison to previous years, the function and activity of the Center significantly increased. For the military, much importance is attached to receiving an education in one of the higher educational establishments of NATO partner countries, leading to the increasing need of bi or multi lingual soldiers. Last year, language courses were taken by just dozens of students, while currently about 700 servicemen are being delivered the language courses, not only in the Centre but in all the units of Armed Forces.

"This year, about 50 groups of students are being engaged in the studying process, ongoing in the Center both in intensive and less intensive forms. Besides, training groups have been opened up in subunits, in parallel to the groups of the National Academy. We visit regions once every two weeks, to insure the monitoring and checking of studying process. We also regularly keep in touch with regional centers and receive all the necessary information through the telephone. As for the subunits, based nearby Tbilisi, the teaching process is quite simplified there. Once a week, the teachers assemble in the Center to dis-

cuss urgent issues", stated Head of the Center, Col. Archil Chachkhiani.

The Center is serviced by qualified instructors, who are regularly trained in Germany, France, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, as well as the US Defence Institute of Languages, other Language Centers and Colleges.

The studying process in the Joint Language Training Center is being carried out according to International Curriculum standards, duly elaborated and approved at the US Defence Institute of Languages. During the teaching process, emphasis is being made on reading, speaking and writing aspects. The teaching material covers the entire set of working and listening books, tests, audio and video recordings.

The servicemen are also allowed to attend foreign language courses in NATO partner countries, improve the relevant qualifications and share with the foreign experience, in order to exponentially give back to the country and develop life long skills. The Curriculum is quite effective in facilitating the studying process.

Major Zaur Berianidze (G-2 Head of the 2nd infantry) underlines in particular the importance of the Curriculum, while saying that that the training program is quite streamlined and consistent. The Curriculum material is divided into several parts according to difficulties. Within the existing Program, students are able to focus on multiple topics, namely- army, medicine, music, theatre and others, respectively stirring a great interest among the listeners. Under the Curriculum, the students have to pass tests once a week, which appears to be a rather effective method. Due to the Curriculum, listeners are able to regularly examine themselves. The Training Center is outfitted with all the conditions needed for insuring the efficient teaching process.

Eka Gakhokidze

1st Infantry Brigade Anniversary Celebration



The 1st Infantry Brigade celebrated its 17th anniversary with a solemn ceremony being held at the Gori Military Base. The Brigade performed the National Anthem at the parade ground. The personnel of the 1st Infantry Brigade and invited guests held a minute of silence in the honour of the Georgian servicemen who made a supreme sacrifice for the territorial integrity of the homeland.

The Defence Minister, Vasil Sikharulidze congratulated the military servicemen and talked about the past activities and achievements of the Infantry Brigade during the seventeen years of its existence. "Since its foundation, the 1st Infantry Brigade has contributed to all battles for the sovereignty and integrity of Georgia. I would like to send my greetings to the personnel on the occasion of the Brigade anniversary and I wish you every success!" - stated Vasil Sikharulidze.

In the end of the ceremony all distinguished military servicemen of the 1st Brigade were granted presents, letters of commendation and money allowances. The 216 military servants were officially thanked for an outstanding service in the Georgian Armed Forces.

After the official ceremony, Chaplain of the 1st Infantry Brigade, Father Gabriel conducted a special prayer and gave his blessing to the personnel.

Several days later, Georgian celebrities performed a concert for militaries of the 1st Infantry Brigade in Gori. The musical performances were also held for the 4th Infantry Brigade in Vaziani Military Base and the rest of military units located in the western regions of Georgia. The musical performances for the Georgian militaries were organized by the Defence Ministry. The purpose of these events was to raise the spirits of military servicemen and maintain a cheerful mood.

Healthy Body leads to a Healthy Mind

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The hospital's capacity consists of 186 beds. One of the strengths of the medical establishment is its versatility. Having distinct branches provides the availability of medical services at any time in various fields, although the most commonly needed are cardio surgery, neurosurgery, traumatology, orthopedics, etc. The doctors of the hospital also have a wide experience of rendering medical aid in extreme conditions, as well as working with people with severe cases needs.

According to the Hospital's Charter, the Gori Military Health Center assumes the delivery of medical services to military servicemen, to persons on the retired list and in reserves, and also to members of their families. To improve the condition of their health via carrying out preventive treatment, rendering outpatient

like to emphasize the close cooperation and productive coordination between military and civil doctors. We dynamically cooperate with doctors in military brigades and units as well. We are ready to provide all up to date requirements and manage tasks well. The August War has brought the corrective amendments in our everyday activities and has put new goals and challenges in front of us. We have set as an object to initiate and develop a telemedicine. We already have hardware and software support here in the Hospital as well as in military units. Through these technical facilities we are able to exchange information around the clock via on-line mode for providing consultations promptly and patients' health state monitoring.

T.A. We have the best results and rates in a critical medicine and an intensive therapy. There are the best specialists and modern technical base in the



and stationary services, as well as full medical rehabilitation and prophylactic medical examinations, the hospital considers these to be everyday necessities. In the case of military operations, the hospital provides high-grade medical aid evacuation of the wounded servicemen and cares of their full recovery.

What are the Hospital's priorities and what kinds of challenges are facing it?

N.J. The main priority of the Hospital is service of the personnel of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Georgia. In spite of that, there are infirmaries and a field hospital in GAF, the Gori Military Hospital is an instance where the most qualified and qualitative medical services are rendered. I would

Hospital work for us. We have reached good results in prosthesis replacement and level of rendered medical service in this trend is high. During the day we have performed 2-3 operations on a regular basis. Once again, according to the Charter of the Hospital, this health centre is a clinical base for undergraduate and graduate students as well as centre for continual professional development in the military and universal medicine field. Initial selection of the staff for the hospital took place in September 2006. Our medical personnel systematically pass retraining on the basis of the hospital, as well as on different courses for advancement of professional skills. For instance, our personnel have retrained on courses led by 03 and Accidents Ser-

vices and etc. I also would like to mention that most of our employees are doctors with diplomas, but in the last stage of training, before becoming licensed doctors, they are called "resident students". These employees are performing junior doctors and nurses duties. It is should be mentioned that, we also actively cooperate with leading universities, for instance with the Medical School of Emory University, the USA which has 150 years of experience in medical education. Not long ago we hosted the delegation from Great Britain who conducted trainings for our staff regarding medical aid during warfare. Consequently, advancing skills and sharing experiences are a non-stop process and the Gori Military Hospital has been actively involved in this process.

Do the Hospital's materials and technology satisfy current requirements, and are medicines of Pharmaceutical integrity utilized?

N.J. This is our priority to use original medicines. And we can afford this; that all techniques and medicines utilized by the hospital would be made by the leading brands. The Military Hospital, has been equipped, according to the latest requirements, the blood testing laboratory was outfitted recently with cutting edge technology. The fact is that a blood bank, of this caliber, is not available in the region. The uniqueness of the blood components produced by this bank is determined via the index of quality (99.9%). According to the current standards on the market, the acceptable norm of blood purity and security is 75-80%. The amount of production, 8000 liters, of absolutely protected blood components per year, should also be mentioned. I would like to cite also, that we are going to purchase a coronagraph for supporting clinical angiology and angio-surgery development. The development of an angiology will engage other trends as well. We are working in routine neurosurgery and endoprosthesis replacements sphere and planning to turn over for operation section for hemodialysis. This project will be fulfilled in the nearest future. The Military Hospital in the city of Gori is an exemplary medical enterprise and our main goal is to afford modern facilities and qualified medical service to patients.

Eka Komakhidze

Boxing Tournament at Defence Ministry of Georgia

In the beginning of April, the final of Georgian Boxing Championship was held at the Sport Recreation Centre "Orbi" with support from the Georgian Boxing Federation. The Georgian militaries participated in the championship, along with the well-known sportsmen. They engaged in competition with success and held medals in

the various weight classes.

The military serviceman of the 3rd Infantry Brigade of the Georgian Armed Forces became a champion in a boxing. Corporal Konstantine Mamageishvili won the 91kg weight class boxing gold medal at the Championship. The Corporal of the Air Forces, Levan Kalandadze won the 81 kg weight class and

took second place. Sergeant Giorgi Bochorishvili participated in the same weight category and won third place. The Corporal of the 1st Infantry Brigade, Levan Ratiani became a bronze medalist among 75 kg weight boxers.

Another competition was also held at the Sport Recreation Centre of the Defence Ministry on April 23, but in this case in Martial Arts. At this time the tournament was organized by Defence Ministry of Georgia with valuable support of the Sport's Department of Georgia.

The representatives of different brigades and units of the Georgian Armed Forces participated in the event. Georgian servicemen engaged in competition competed in seven weight classes for the right to hold gold, silver and bronze medals. The representatives of the 2nd Infantry Brigade won the first place by team scores. They were invested with medals of various ranks.

It is also remarkable to note that the Georgian Boxing Federation expressed its readiness for further close cooperation with the Defence Ministry of Georgia. On the basis that, an intensified collaboration of military servicemen of the Georgian Armed Forces, will participate in the international tournaments.

