



Recruits Completed BCT Program

The Initial and Basic Combat Training (BCT) Course has come to an end. A solemn graduation ceremony of BCT for recruits was held in Krtsanisi Training Centre.

The Deputy Minister of Defence of Georgia, Bacho Akhalaia, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff, Brigadier General Davit Nairashvili, Deputy Commander of Land Forces, Col. Koba Lachkebiani, Chief of MOD Administration, Otar Berdzen-

ishvili and other leadership of GAF congratulated military servicemen upon their graduation of the training program.

For 12 weeks, under the guidance of Georgian instructors, 588 Georgian military servicemen have undergone two-stage, initial and basic combat trainings. Trainings were carried out on the territory of the Krtsanisi Training Centre.

During the First Stage of training, recruits passed through

tactical, physical and fire exercises. They also will move to the next stage and will undergo machine gunner, grenade launcher man, artillery, signalman, combat rescuer, driver and cook specialization courses.

Military servicemen were granted certificates. After completion of the BCT program, recruits will be allocated at various units and continue compulsory military service.

Shalva Londaridze

Entrance Examinations to the Defence Academy

Entrance examinations for Land Forces Junior Officers Training Courses and Air Forces Air Defence Specialties started at the National Defence Academy. The first stage of entrance examinations was held in general skills today.

Entrants with the best results will pass the second stage of entrance examinations in physical preparedness on November 20, and they will have to compete in three types of physical exercis-

es: to run 3200 meters in a fixed amount of time and do push-ups and press exercises.

792 graduates of higher educational institutions applied to participate in the entrance examinations but only 590 of were considered eligible by the medical examination commission.

The admissions commission will publish the final list of the enrolled students on January 26.

The students admitted to the National Defence Academy will

undergo a Junior Officers Training Courses in three stages; basic combat training (BCT), officers' candidate and officers' basic training courses. The courses will start on February 2 and will last for eighteen months.

After graduation from the training courses, the students will be granted the rank of lieutenant and will perform duty in the ranks of the Georgian Armed Forces.

Shalva Londaridze



“US-Georgia Strategic partnership creates a good basis for further expansion of Georgia’s security”

On January 9, 2009, in Washington DC, the Charter on Strategic Partnership between Georgia and The United States of America was signed. The charter foresees cooperation between the two countries in different fields of action – economy, culture, democracy, defense and security. In frame of the visit of the Georgian delegation to the USA, which was dedicated to sign the mentioned strategic partnership document, Vasil Sikharulidze - Minister of Defence of Georgia, met his American counterpart. The importance of the Charter is especially obvious for Georgia in the light of our prolonged NATO aspira-

tions, as there are special articles in the document which refers direct assistance from the USA, in order to help Georgia to meet Alliance standards. The accords that the United States has signed with Georgia are seen as being similar to the US-Baltic Charter, which the United States signed with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in 1998 and which became an important step for those countries' integration into NATO. While signing the document, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice declared: “The United States supports, and will always support Georgia’s sovereignty and its territorial integrity, as well as its Euro-Atlantic aspira-

tions and its integration into the of the Euro-Atlantic institutions. The pace of Georgia’s integration with NATO should depend on the desires of Georgians themselves, and on Georgia’s ability to meet NATO standards.” Her Georgian counterpart, Grigol Vashadze, who also signed the Charter from the Georgian side, called it a “stepping stone” to Tbilisi’s eventual membership in NATO and emphasized the significance of the document after the tragic August war in Georgia. “This document is not directed against anybody, but it’s a very powerful signal,” stated Vashadze.

Continued on p.2



Vasil Sikharulidze and Robert Gates

INSIDE

- ▶ **Defence Ministry and EU Monitoring Mission Signed a Document**
- ▶ **Interview with Parliamentary State Secretary of MOD of the Federal Republic of Germany**

- ▶ **“Cooperative Longbow - Cooperative Lancer 2009”**
- ▶ **Fraternal Cemetery and DNA Analyses**
- ▶ **Ceremony of Transfer of Authority of NATO Contact Point Embassy in Georgia**

“US-Georgia Strategic partnership creates a good basis for further expansion of Georgia’s security”

Continued from p.1

Signing of this document was mostly evaluated by Georgian society and Georgia’s political elite as being a very important and positive sign for the country’s further development, strengthening democracy, economy and defense. But there were different opinions also. Some believe there is nothing new about Georgian-USA relationships and especially about protecting Georgia’s security. To understand more about real expectations of Georgia about this Charter, its role in country’s security and Euro-Atlantic integration, we interviewed **Mr. Giorgi Muchaidze, Deputy Minister of Defence of Georgia.**

USA and Georgia already have had partnership relations for a long period of time. Now these relations became formalized by the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership. How much will this document change the already existing partnership?

Cooperation and partnership between United States and Georgia has a long history. After the Soviet Union was broken down and Georgia gained back its sovereignty, the USA provided to Georgia considerable support in different spheres, including defense. It was attended by the Georgian nation’s side in building an independent, sovereign and democratic state. The United States has greatly contributed to training and equipment programs of Georgian military forces. It still continues to help intensively for further development of our country’s defense capabilities. After signing Charter of Strategic Partnership between the two nations, a stage of qualitatively new, close and intensive cooperation has started. It is highlighted in the Charter that partnership between Georgia and USA is based on common values and interests; also on mutual assistance in order to support each other’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

It is already known that in frames of Strategic Partnership Charter, a number of other documents should be signed, in order to regulate relations between two countries in concrete fields of action. Is it planned or not to prepare such kind of document in security and military fields?

Intensive consultations and a working process is going on today for practical realization of Charter articles. But talking about concrete agreements and programs is now premature. What about spheres and volume of cooperation, it is significant to mention that the working process has a large-scale format and is dedicated to the development of defense critical capabilities and accelerated implementation of obligations in frames of Georgia-NATO cooperation.

It is also known that the main strategy of countries’ security policy is not going to change and Georgia will continue its course of integration into the North Atlantic Alliance. But it is still very interesting if we have the new strategy of development defense policy after the very painful state of war in last August? Are any concrete plans of reforms or priorities and do we expect support from our American partners to accomplish these plans?

Integration into the North-Atlantic Alliance definitely stays as major priority of Georgia’s foreign and security policies. In light of new realities that have been established in Georgia after the 2008 August Russian aggression and primary analyzes of gained military experience, the new document of our Minister’s Vision was worked out. It is public document, in which priorities of Ministry of Defense of Georgia for 2009 is formulated. Redirection of military component of the Strategic Security Review document has already started. In frames of this process, renovation of Risk Assessment Analyses in military field, National Military Strategy, Strategic Defence Review and

other important documents are planned. As the result the structure of military forces in short, mid and long terms will be worked out. From the priorities of 2009 I would like to highlight education, transformation and institutionalization of training systems, development of military personal management, development of defense critical capabilities, planning and programming of

by deferent means, including improvement of trainings and equipment. It is also declared in the document that sides are responsible to complete the program of wide-scale cooperation in security field. This program will be dedicated to develop Georgia’s corresponding capabilities and improve preparations for alliance membership.
Partnership naturally means mu-

tection of security, territorial integrity and borders inviolability. Besides, there is mentioned in the Charter that deepening the Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia is the common priority and is planned to start a new program for broadening cooperation in the security sphere. Its aim is to strengthen Georgia’s abilities and prepare for NATO membership. It has also been mentioned that the United States of America will support Georgia’s aspiration to satisfy security and defense legal necessities. I consider that all above mentioned creates a good basis and aspects for further expansion of Georgia’s security.

One of the articles of the Charter intends to work out a structured plan in order to increase interoperability of Georgian armed forces to NATO standards. Such kinds of programs were already adopted in the past, among them GTEP, SSOP I and SSOP II. Are such kind of training projects intended to be conducted in the future?

As I have already mentioned, very close consultations are ongoing in the direction of the Charter’s implementation. Its main purpose will be the elaboration of large-scale cooperation plan in security sphere. The appropriate programs will be carried out in the framework of it.

The GTEP and SSOP programs implemented an important role in the development process of Georgian Armed Forces. We can’t expel that similar or renewal programs may be continued in future.

How does the creation of a Georgia-NATO Commission and an Annual National Plan (ANP) fasten Georgia’s integration process? When is MAP expectable?

During the NATO-Georgia cooperation, one of the most important events of the recent year was the creation of a NATO-Georgia Commission. The mentioned Commission is a body where the cooperative intensification for membership on all levels is being carried out in order to meet necessary criteria. In December 2008, also a very important decision was made - to grant Annual National Program (ANP) in spirit of NATO-Georgia Commission at NATO Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. We have to underline the fact that the above-mentioned program actually is an identical format of Annual National Program stipulated in the format of membership Action Plan (MAP) that gives us opportunity to prepare Georgia for NATO membership, without MAP stage. Currently the elaboration of an Annual National Program is going on. The document will be presented to NATO for recommendations in the nearest future and its implementation will start afterwards.

Ana Alania



defense budget and development of doctrine system. Also very important priority is to support families of injured and perished soldiers and rehabilitation of wounded military servants. What about support from American partners, I want to mention, that we have very productive everyday cooperation with Defence Cooperation Office, which exists with Ministry of Defense of Georgia and is recruited with US military personals. Also we have permanent consultations with the group of American experts in defense sphere. Soon we plan to grow and deepen existed cooperation.

A similar charter became the main supporting and accelerating factor to join NATO for Baltic States. Do you think today’s conditions for Georgia’s Defence policy gives the possibility of the same development of processes?

Of course, the mechanisms of cooperation, which are foreseen by the Charter, will become a supporting and accelerating factor for Georgia’s NATO integration. One of the most important targets of this Charter is the support integration process and accelerated fulfillment of our obligations before North Atlantic Alliance. It is clarified in the Charter that in frames of NATO-Georgia commission, Georgia and the United States should work out the plan, which aims to raise Georgia’s capabilities, interoperability and coordination

tual responsibilities, obligations and support. In this light, what is Georgia’s role and obligation toward the USA in military terms?

Georgia has already been playing an important role in order to strengthen international peace and security. Georgian Armed Forces had participated under the auspice of NATO and peacekeeping operations were ongoing in the spirit of our antiterrorist coalition, including in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. At present Georgia is participating in the most important NATO operation – ISAF in Afghanistan. It is mentioned in the Charter that the United States of America recognizes Georgia as an important exporter country in security issues and main contributor in the coalition operation in Iraq. The NATO and other partner countries positively estimate Georgia’s international peacekeeping assistance that promotes to strengthen Georgia’s image and increase international support.

There was some skepticism toward the Charter in some groups of society. Also there was an opinion that the Charter doesn’t provide any concrete guarantee for protecting Georgia’s security. What would be your comment about such opinions?

Once more I’d like to underline that there is clearly mentioned in the Charter that the bilateral cooperation between the USA and Georgia is based on common interests including the pro-



Giorgi Muchaidze

Visit of the U.S. European Command Delegation

The U.S. European Command delegation paid a visit to Georgia. USAEUR delegation visited the Ministry of Defence of Georgia and the Joint Staff of GAF. Six - person delegation was led by General Carter F. Ham.

Among the guests were the USAREUR Commander Sergeant, Major Ralph Bean, officer of the USAREUR J-5, Gay Ellingwood and Chief of ODC, LTC Paul Riley. The meeting at

the Defence Ministry was attended by the Ambassador of the USA to Georgia, H.E. Mr. John F. Tefft, US Army Defence and Army Attaché, Col. Matthew Brand.

The US delegation was received by the Defence Minister, Vasil Sikharulidze. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Defence Minister, Giorgi Muchaidze. The issues related to the defence and security cooperation be-

tween Georgia and the United States, assistance programs in this field, cooperative field trainings as well as the Charter on Strategic Partnership signed by Georgia and the USA were subject of sides’ discussion at the meeting.

In the framework of the visit General Carter F. Ham visited the National Training Centre Krtsanisi.

Nino Gogochishvili



Defence Ministry and EU Monitoring Mission Signed a Document

The Ministry of Defence of Georgia and European Union Monitoring Mission signed the document "Provisional Arrangement for the Exchange of Information".

The signing ceremony of the document was held at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. From the Georgian side the document was signed by the Georgian Minister of Defence, Vasil Sikharulidze, and the European Union Monitoring Mission was represented by Ambassador Hansjoerg Haber.

The agreement was based on the six-point agreement mediated by the European Union. The document, aimed at strengthening the confidence and security between the Defence Ministry and EUMM, defines the most effective methods for exchanging information.

After the meeting, the sides made comments regarding the importance of the document.

According to the Minister of Defence of Georgia, Vasil Sikharulidze, "Today we signed the arrangements of transparency measures, namely, the memorandum between the Georgian Defence Ministry and European Union



Monitoring Mission. It is very important that EUMM is functioning in Georgia and we hope that our cooperation will become more intensive in the fu-

ture. European Union Monitoring Mission has never failed to fulfill its mandate and the same will be in Georgia. They will carry out their mandate and

do even more to strengthen security and stability in the regions where they are working now. It is very significant the EUMM to intensify its work for com-

plete fulfillment of its mandate."

"We have just signed an arrangement that limits the deployment of heavy weapons in the near vicinity of the administrative boundary lines of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and by which the Georgian government will inform us in advance of troop movements. I think this is a brave and unilateral step by which the Georgian government contributes greatly to the implementation of the six-point agreement and especially its first point which stipulates that there should be no use of force. So the Georgian government will keep us informed. This is important to stabilize the whole area. It does not effect the diplomatic position as Georgia and European Union do not recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia and this will remain so. We now hope that the Russian side will examine this arrangement in a positive spirit and find steps to reciprocate and to create transparency about its troops in the two areas and to inform us accordingly," declared the Head of European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, Ambassador Hansjoerg Haber.

Interview with Parliamentary State Secretary of MOD of the Federal Republic of Germany

On 13 of January, **Parliamentary State Secretary of MOD of the Federal Republic of Germany, Thomas Kossenday** visited the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. The guest was received by the Defence Minister of Georgia, Vasil Sikharulidze. Behind the closed doors, the two sides discussed scheduled events in the framework of bilateral cooperation between Georgia and the Federation Republic of Germany. After the meeting, we had the possibility to interview the Parliamentary State Secretary of MOD.

First of all, let me express my gratitude for your support to Georgia in a very difficult situation. We really appreciate your assistance. Germany actively supports Georgia in reforming the Defence sphere. What will you highlight in the framework of German-Georgian political and military relations?

Georgia and the Federal Republic of Germany have been cooperating for a long time, and the friendly relationship between our countries includes the Defence Sphere as well. For several years we have been assisting Georgia in its preparation of personal. In this field we share our experience with our Georgian colleagues. We support Georgia's efforts to get closer to NATO standards for its integration in the Alliance. Except for this we have elaborated program, which consists of 30 activities in this sphere for the current year. We want to study something from Georgians and vice-versa. One of these activities, which had been implemented during the previous years, was that we prepared two thousand officers from the Georgian Armed Forces in Germany.

Cooperation in the development of Georgia's Sergeant Training School is being successfully implemented. With the support of the German side, an Environmental Management Cell was established in Georgia. How can you evaluate results of this assistance?

I want to underscore the success that the Ministry of Defence of Georgia achieved in this field, because it is very important how diligently Georgia is



dealing with these tasks. We attach a great importance to this fact. First of all, I want to mention the environmental protection field, which at first glance may seem not to be associated with the Defence sphere, but is very important. We consider every step forward in this direction as a very essential advance in Bundeswehr. It means that we are very carefully treating the training bases and the issue of their arranging. At the same time we spare energy, energy power and all kinds of energy supplies. We consider that we have huge experience relating to this issue, and thus it will be excellent if the Ministry of Defence of Georgia will foresee these activities, which will protect security and also spend energy supplies with care.

What can you say about the bilateral military cooperation plan of 2009? What new directions of cooperation will be inserted in it?

Relating to future plans that we have with the Ministry of Defence of Georgia, the issues associated with the personnel training will be in the centre of our attention. Of course our proposal will be oriented on demands of the Georgian side, but the preparation of personnel will be the priority. So, we will try

to continue the term of service of military representatives, who coordinate the NCO School for completion.

Georgia signed the Strategic Partnership Charter with the United States. The document envisages expansion of partnership and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defence, security, economy, energy, democratic reforms, diplomacy and culture.

How do you evaluate the importance of this charter for Georgia's security?

Germany welcomed the signing of the Strategic Cooperation Charter with the United States of America. We assess positively everything that will help Georgia to get closer to NATO. I think that only military issues aren't important in this Charter, but also other components, for example human rights, culture and other issues which will help Georgia to go forward. I want to assure you - Germany will always support Georgia's on its way towards NATO. We do it in the framework of bilateral relations. We will also cooperate with other donors, other states, including the US. We welcome it at every possible step.

Nino Gogochishvili

"Cooperative Longbow - Cooperative Lancer 2009"

In May, Georgia will host the large-scale multinational exercise "Cooperative Longbow & Cooperative Lancer 2009," in the spirit of the NATO Partnership for Peace Program. The military exercise "Cooperative Longbow & Cooperative Lancer 2009" will start on May 3 and will go on for a month. Approximately 900 representatives from 23 NATO member and partner countries will participate in the exercise. The main planning conference for the multinational exercise was opened in "Metekhi Palace Hotel" on January 20. The participants of the conference, who arrived in Georgia from various countries, discussed the organizational issues of the upcoming military exercise. The planning conference started with a presentation from the NATO side regarding the details of the training. "Cooperative Longbow/ Cooperative Lancer 2009" will be conducted in two stages, including staff and field trainings. During the first stage the exercise operations will be planned by the staff. As for the second stage - the planned operations will be implemented by the military servicemen. The military exercise will be led by Deputy Chief of Operation Planning Department - J3, Col. Nugzar Tsintsadze and Deputy Commander of NATO Madrid Staff, Brigadier General Giovanni Savareze.

In an interview with us, Captain Gi-

anluca Manfredeli, the head of the media analysis section from CC HQ Madrid, said: "Georgia is moving a step towards Euro Atlantic integration. Trainings in PfP framework certainly will help to study much more. We have inspected the Vaziani military base where the trainings will take place and we are satisfied. This area meets all the requirements. During this planning conference we are going to consider the main aspects of this training. We will once again meet in February on the Final Coordination Conference to collate our final decisions."

"Cooperative Longbow - 2009" is a NATO/PfP Command Post Exercise (CPX) with Rapid Crisis Response Operations elements for a Multinational Brigade (MB) on the planning and management of peacekeeping operations. "Cooperative Lancer - 2009" is a NATO/PfP Field Training Exercise (FTX) with participation of a Multinational Battalion. The Exercise will consist of two stages, and as a result of the exercise the involved troops will obtain skills in peacekeeping operations and develop infantry skills in a realistic operational environment. The aim of the Planning Conference that wrapped up on January 23 was to develop main exercise documents and concepts.

David Jokhadze



Fraternal Cemetery and DNA Analyses

The Georgian Ministry of Defence is beginning the construction of a fraternal cemetery and memorial for soldiers who died during the Russian-Georgian war. The cemetery occupies 400 sqm and will start as the burial grounds for 50 soldiers.

The MOD of Georgia installed an informative banner at the entrance of the cemetery, which explains to the public about the construction of the memorial in this place.

There are many questions about the memorial and the fraternal cemetery: when will it finish? Why hasn't it finished yet?

"The MoD of Georgia, with support of Ministry of Culture of Georgia and Municipality of Tbilisi declared tender about memorial project. Commission will evaluate works of different artists and will choose the best project. The competition will finish on 27 February," declared Mr. Otar Berdzenishvili, Chief of Administration of MoD of Georgia. Mr. Otar explained that construction of

memorial should finish around Easter holidays.

At the same time, the identification of Georgian military servants who died after Russian aggression continues. The national Bureau of Court Expertise has identified 47 unknown soldiers via DNA analyses. Recognition of soldiers continues after 5 months. Genetic codes of the soldiers and their parents have been compared in a biological laboratory.

10 bodies were transferred from the conflict zone on 16 November, said Irina Tandilashvili, Chief of the Biological Laboratory of the National Bureau of Court Expertise. "Five soldiers were identified from the last ten bodies. Research of the remaining five bodies temporarily is stopped, because the biological laboratory is waiting for useful preparations from Great Britain," declared Mrs. Irina Tandilashvili.

Supposedly, after the identification of bodies, dead hero soldiers will be transferred to the fraternal cemetery.

Irakli Gurgeniძე



New PEP Agreement Signed



Phil Brabbs, Manager of PEP Georgia

A crucial agreement has been signed regarding the future of the British Council's Peacekeeping English Project (PEP) at the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. According to the agreement, PEP staff in Tbilisi will be employed by the Ministry of Defence of Georgia (MODGE) from 1 January 2009. "This is an extremely welcome development," says Phil Brabbs, Manager of PEP Georgia, "since the transfer of PEP staff to the MODGE to continue their work is one of the best ways to ensure that the expertise and products developed by PEP during its lifetime can be sustained and made available for the benefit of the Georgian Armed Forces."

The agreement was signed by the Head of International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department, Nino Bakradze, and the Defence Attaché of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Lt Col Nick Ridout.

Under the terms of the agreement, three PEP teachers will join the National Defence Academy's United Language Training Centre, and will continue to work and offer the same style of courses at their present location in the former Military Academy for the time being.

Three other PEP staff, along with two colleagues from the NDA, will become members of the new Language Testing and Assessment Team, which will be subordinated to J-7 and will, amongst other things, be responsible for design-

ing and administering NATO-compliant STANAG 6001 English language tests for the whole of the Georgian Armed Forces.

Furthermore, as of 1 April 2009, all PEP materials and equipment will become the property of MODGE.

After the war with Russia in August last year and the damage sustained by the PEP Poti branch, PEP's UK sponsors (the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain) decided to extend funding of PEP in Georgia for a further six months, up to 30 September 2009, in part to enable the re-instatement of the PEP Poti branch. After handover of the project at the end of March 2009, the PEP Manager will remain in an advisory position until the end of September, providing recommendations and advice, plus training opportunities, materials and equipment for the continued development of English language training and assessment in the Georgian Armed Forces.

"This agreement marks a very important new phase in the life of the Peacekeeping English Project in Georgia", said Mr Brabbs. He went on to express his sincere thanks to the UK Defence Attaché, the Joint Staff and the Georgian Ministry of Defence for their high level of support and cooperation, which had made the signing of this agreement possible.

Experts of Bureau for International Language visit Defence Ministry

Experts from the Bureau for International Language (BILC) continue guiding a language teaching process at the Defence Ministry of Georgia. Two representatives of BILC visited Georgia for this purpose. Keith Wert and Ingrida Lemans observed the foreign language teaching process in the Georgian Armed Forces and provided with recommendations in the case of need.

Working meetings were held between representatives of GAF and BILC experts. Guests were received by the Military Education and Combat Training Department of the Joint Staff, Col Nodar Kvilitaia and Chief of Military Education Department, Col. Aleksandre Kekelia. The meeting was attended by the Head of International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department, Nino Bakradze. The Georgian side introduced foreign language study features in GAF to the experts.

Experts from the Bureau for International Language held meetings with representatives of CUBIC and the US Defence Cooperation Office as well as ODC leadership. Consultations were conducted with the Manager of the



Peacekeeping English Project, Philip Brabbs and NATO Liaison Officer in the South Caucasus Region Zbigniew Rybacki. In the framework of the visit, guests visited military units which have been studying foreign languages. Guest visited the National Defence Academy, Krtsansi Training Centre and Vaziani Military Base.

BILC experts arrived in Gori to

witness the destroyed infrastructure of the I Infantry Military Base during the Russian aggression. As a consequence of the Russian jets' bombing, class rooms were destroyed and language studies were interrupted as well.

The experts of the Bureau for International Language have conducted similar visits to Georgia every year since 2005.

Ceremony of Transfer of Authority of NATO Contact Point Embassy in Georgia

The official ceremony of transfer of authority of the NATO Contact Point Embassy in Georgia took place in the international cultural center "MUZA." Bulgarian Embassy, who held this authority for 4 years, now delivers its responsibilities to its Latvian counterpart. The ceremony was or-

ganized by Mr. Zbigniew Rybacki, NATO Liaison Officer in the South Caucasus region.

Officials of the Georgian Government, Parliament and political parties, NATO Ambassadors and Defence Attachés accredited in Georgia, and also representatives of NGOs and Mass

Media were invited to the event.

The ceremony was opened by Mr. Rybacki, after which, Mrs. Helene Khoshtaria, Deputy Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, emphasized the important contribution of the Embassy of Bulgaria in developing NATO-Georgia relations and expressed gratefulness toward Mr. Branimir Radev, Ambassador of Bulgaria. She has also welcomed Andris Vilcans, Ambassador of Latvia, with the hope of further strong and significant cooperation.

The ambassadors of Bulgaria and Latvia also took a floor. Ambassador Radev shortly evaluated his past work and achievement, while Ambassador Vilcans talked about his future plans and expectations. In the end of ceremony, Ambassador of Bulgaria has symbolized this transfer of responsibility, by delivering his working files to his Latvian counterpart.

Ana Alania

