

**Ambassador Vershbow Trip to Georgia
Scope Paper**

U.S.-Georgia Charter Commission Security Working Group; October 19-20

Issue: (U) You are scheduled to lead the U.S.-Georgia Charter Commission Security Working Group (SWG) October 20, with State Department as Co-Chair.

- ~~(C)~~ The visit will have two components, bilateral meetings with Georgia's political/military leadership and the first working group of the Charter.

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- ~~(S)~~ The Georgian government places high-value on your visit and will publicly utilize the optics of the first ever Charter Working Group to highlight their most important bilateral relationship

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U.S. Objectives

- (U) Reaffirm the President's and Vice President's message of strong support for Georgia.

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- (U) Provide a realistic perspective to the pace, scope and end-state of U.S. assistance.
- (U) Elicit a clear understanding of Minister of Defense Akhalaia's defense reform plan, goals, objectives and intentions.
- (U) Commend and express appreciation for Georgia's significant ISAF contributions.
- (U) Congratulate reform efforts and emphasize need to move from intentions to action on necessary defense reforms.

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Georgian Objectives: (U)

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U.S. Defense Assistance: (U)

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- [Redacted]
- (U) EUCOM has a multi-faceted defense cooperation and Country Campaign plan with Georgia that is being implemented with dozens of engagement activities focusing on defense transformation, NATO integration, and expeditionary capabilities.
- (U) Dozens of U.S. Marines are training Georgian soldiers for Afghanistan.
- (U) Exercise Immediate Response will place U.S. personnel side by side with the Georgian counterparts 24 October – November

(b)(3):10 USC §130c

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- (U) Georgia's FY 09 FMF apportionment is \$11 million:
 - (U) Simulations Center - \$2.5 million, in order to train staffs, conduct integrated exercises with NATO, and validate doctrine and GDP.
 - (U) Training and Education - \$3.1 million, in order to fund mobile training teams that help Georgia develop military doctrine, professional military education curricula, and fill critical education and training gaps
 - (U) Krtanisi Training Center Modernization and Development - \$1.6 million, in order to conduct assessments and develop necessary training ranges, train observer/controllers to develop and manage tactical training of infantry units, utilizing the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear purchased in 2008, and fund necessary construction of training area infrastructure.
 - (U) Defense Advisors - \$3.8 million, in order to fund the contract that provides advice and assistance to the MoD and the GAF in defense sector transformation, including building of institutions and systems, the development of doctrine and curricula, the conduct of the National Security review, and the training of MOD/GAF personnel to improve professionalization and NATO interoperability.

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Security Working Group: (U)

- (U) ASD (ISA) will be responsible for leading the discussion on Part One of the Security Working Group agenda:
 - (U) 1) U.S.-Georgia Security Cooperation (DoD Lead - Afghan deployment, security assistance, NATO integration)
 - (U) 2) Georgian Defense Reform (Georgia Lead - Georgian side provides examples of progress/milestones)
 - (U) 3) Security Issues/Regional Issues/Conflict (State Lead - security situation, Geneva, Maritime issues, International presence, Missile Defense)
- (U) Security working group is the first to take place and follow on working groups are planned in 2009 on democracy, economy, and people-to-people engagement.

NATO: (U)

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- (U) Georgia was cited earlier this year as successively submitting an ANP on time and with a set of strong benchmarks to engage on in the year ahead.

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- (U) MOIA should consider internal reforms similar to MoD in personnel management, logistics, force structure and long range planning. Greater clarity


needed on the roles of MOD and MOIA, their interface, as well as providing more clarity on the paramilitary aspects of the MOIA.

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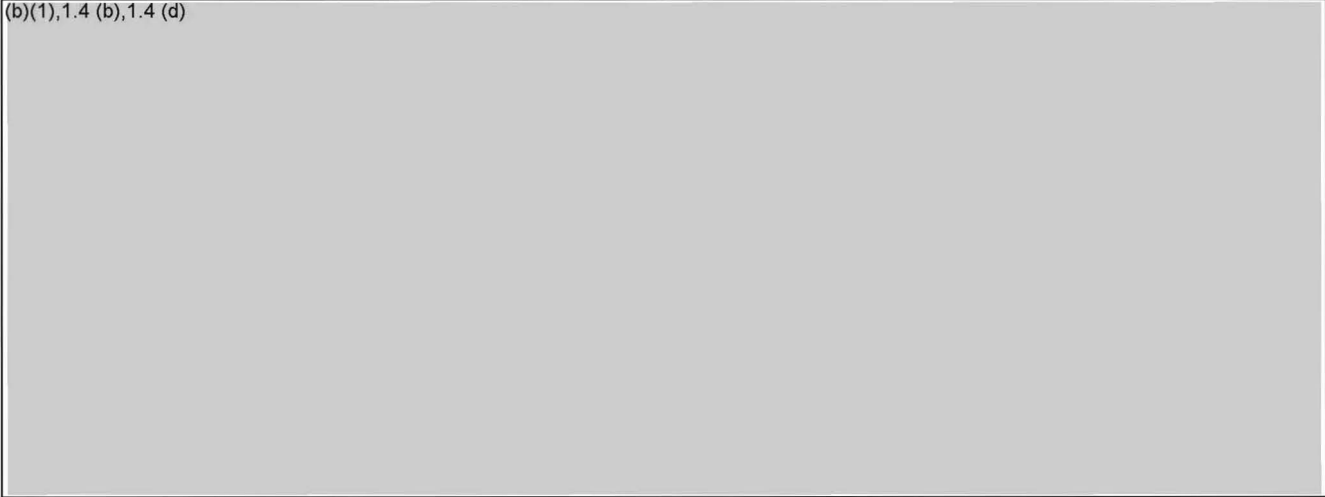
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Ministry of Defense Shakeup: (U)

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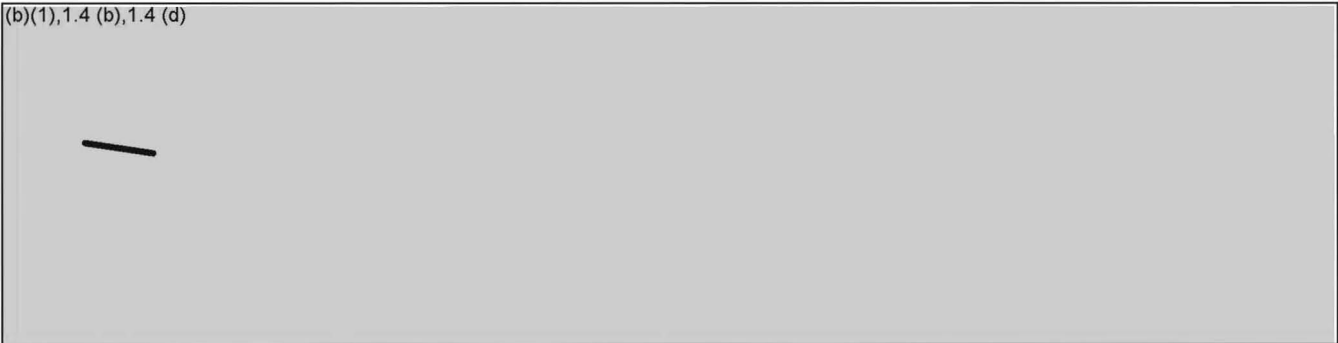
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MoD Successes and Challenges: (U)


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- (U) Successes include:
 - (U) In defense planning, the GAF, with U.S. assistance, has drafted an Annual National Program for NATO; initiated work on its General Defense Plan; drafted its National Military Strategy; published the Minister's vision, and created two anti-tank battalions, which were formally under the artillery brigade.
 - (U) In personnel, adopted a scheme for officer rank structure and a military pay by rank concept, and has selected a senior enlisted advisor to the CHOD.
 - (U) In training, the GAF has asked Office of Defense Cooperation in Tbilisi for assistance in the development of doctrine, and has been receiving assistance and instruction from U.S. defense advisors.

Afghanistan: (U)

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participate actively in discussions during training, and are conducting their own additional training for those having difficulty. These are all new phenomena.

- (U) Training week four has concluded the individual skills portion of the GDP-ISAF training program, with unit and battalion staff training starting immediately.

(b)(3):10 USC §130c

- (U) While there is still significant progress to be made in order for the battalion to operate independently, the rate of progress displayed by the NCOs and officers is beyond expectations.

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- (U) We should stress to the Georgians that they focus on current training efforts and we are not prepared to respond to their offer at the current time.

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If Asked: (U)

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- (U) **EU Report on August War:** Key themes include the steady escalation of tensions in the years immediately preceding the war; the failure of the international community to defuse those tensions; Russia's interest in establishing a privileged zone of interest; use of force against Tskhinvali August 7;

(b)(3):10 USC §130c

(b)(1),1.4 (b),1.4 (d)

- (U) Saakashvili called the report a "great diplomatic victory for Georgia," noting the tremendous pressure the EU was under from Russia to produce a pro-Russian report and the recognition that ethnic cleansing took place under Russian auspices in the separatist regions. He claimed the report refuted Russian lies and proved untrue several Russian claims, including that Georgia attacked Russian peacekeepers; attacks on Russian citizens justified intervention; and Georgia committed genocide.