



Turkey Eyes Police/Military Cooperation with Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan

OE Watch Commentary: As the accompanying passages from Turkish sources discuss, the Turkish Gendarmerie General Command (which is part of the Turkish Interior Ministry) is aiming to re-activate the ‘Organization of Eurasian Law Enforcement Agencies with Military Status.’ The group, which goes by the acronym TAKM per its founders Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, was initially set up in 2013 with the goal of strengthening cooperation and experience-sharing among the four countries’ law-enforcement personnel, but did not become active at that time.

As the first passage from the Turkish-language daily newspaper *Milliyet* discusses, “The organization was initially established in 2013 but then it was put on hold due to Mongolia’s decision to terminate the military formation.” The passage also points out that the Turkish Gendarmerie is leading the effort, with the goal to strengthen relationships between law enforcement agencies with a military status in Eurasia, and to share information and experience as well as how gendarmerie personnel from Turkey will train other countries’ law enforcement personnel. The symbol for the organization will include the figure of a horse, which has an important meaning in each of these countries’ cultures. On top will also be four stars to represent the four countries. The second passage comes from *Stratejik Ortak*, a Turkish news website on defense issues, and it notes how the organization also hopes to fight organized crime and other crimes that fall under the responsibility of law enforcement, such as terrorism and smuggling. The organization is “not against a particular enemy, country or organization.”

The third passage from *Al-Monitor*, a news website with analysts from Turkey, also notes that the organization’s charter allows any Eurasian country with gendarmerie law enforcement units to apply for membership, and that Kazakhstan has expressed a firm intention to join. Russia is reportedly also closely following the re-activation efforts.

The Turkish gendarmerie is quite unique compared to many others, because it has conventional combat experience. It was active in Turkey’s Euphrates Shield Operation in Syria, which was launched in August 2016. As the third accompanying passage notes, it is active in combating terror and border security with its attack helicopters, heavy armored vehicles, armed drones and combat-proven special operation teams and looks more like “an army with serious conventional military capabilities instead of a rural police force.” This effort appears to be part of a larger effort by the Turkish gendarmerie to expand its coordination with foreign forces. As the final passage notes, the gendarmerie command is already in close cooperation with Italy and France in training and joint exercises. It also executes train-and-equip programs in Macedonia, Gambia and Somalia. **End OE Watch Commentary (Kaya)**

“The force will consist of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, and will be named ‘Organization of Eurasian Law Enforcement Agencies with Military Status.’”

Source: “Türk dünyası ortak ordusunu kuruyor (The Turkic world is establishing its joint army),” *Milliyet.com.tr*, 13 December 2017. <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/turk-dunyasi-ortak-ordusunu-kuruyor-gundem-2571475/>

The Turkic world is establishing a ‘Eurasian Military Force’... Initially, the force will consist of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, and will be named “Organization of Eurasian Law Enforcement Agencies with Military Status.” Its symbol will be a horse and four stars. Turkey will be represented by its Gendarmerie General Command in the force, which will officially become operational in 2018 and work only for peace. The organization was initially established in 2013 but then it was put on hold due to Mongolia’s decision to terminate the military formation that was to join the Eurasia Military Force; now the joint military is being re-activated. The Organization of the Eurasian Law Enforcement Agencies with Military Status will aim to strengthen relationships between law enforcement agencies with military status in Eurasia, and to share information and experience...

Turkey will be represented by its Gendarmerie Command... The gendarmerie personnel from Turkey will also train other countries’ law enforcement personnel. Turkey is leading the effort in this force... The symbol for the organization will include the figure of a horse, which has an important meaning in each of these countries’ cultures. On top will also be four stars to represent the four countries.

Source: “Ortak Türk Ordusu Kuruldu (TAKM) (Joint Turkic Army (TAKM) is Established),” *StratejikOrtak.com*, 16 December 2017. <https://www.stratejikortak.com/2017/12/ortak-turk-ordusu-kuruldu.html>

A new and useful structure has been formed in Eurasia, to fight against organized crime, and other crimes that fall under the responsibility of law enforcement, such as anti-terror and smuggling. It is not against a particular enemy, country or organization. It has come together to fight international crimes. ... It will also ensure the security of the region’s energy routes...

Source: Metin Gürçan, “Turkey’s ‘war machine’ goes global,” *Al Monitor*, 28 December 2017. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/12/turkey-eurasianism-is-rising-among-gendarmerie-ranks.html>

...[T]he gendarmerie command — which is active in combating terror and border security with its attack helicopters, heavy armored vehicles, armed drones and combat-proven special operations teams at its disposal — appears more like an army with serious conventional military capabilities instead of a rural police force...

The gendarmerie command, which has been in close cooperation with Italy and France in training and joint exercises, also executes its own train-and-equip programs in Macedonia, Gambia and Somalia. Now it is eyeing Eurasia for 2018...

According to TAKM’s charter, any Eurasian country with gendarmerie law enforcement units could apply for membership, and Kazakhstan has expressed a firm intention to join. Russia is also closely following the reactivation efforts.