



## Central Asia's Security Cooperation Initiatives

**OE Watch Commentary:** Reports from Central Asia on security cooperation largely focus on activities involving armed forces of the region working with Russia, NATO members, and China, among a few other partners. While Central Asian media consider this security cooperation important for the development of their respective militaries and for maintaining relations with the aforementioned partners, the accompanying excerpted articles demonstrate how activities between governments in the region has become more common as relations between governments has improved (see: “The Joint Tajik-Uzbek Effort to Demine the Border,” *OE Watch*, November 2018).

The article from *Asia-Plus*, a news website with a focus on Tajikistan, reports on a recent agreement in which the Kazakh government will provide Tajikistan with military equipment. The article notes how “Kazakhstan previously provided assistance with mine detectors, chemical detection devices, stretchers, and water tanks among other things” and that the recent agreement “provides for training Tajik officers in military schools in Kazakhstan.” The article from *Sarbaz*, a Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense publication, provides a report on developments within the Kazakh armed forces in 2018, including how “special forces units of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the tactical-special exercise ‘Añyraqai.’” Security cooperation like this may not receive much attention in the region, much less internationally, but it is worth continuing to watch if governments in the region continue to improve relations between each other as they have over the past couple of years. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**

*“Kazakhstan previously provided assistance with mine detectors, chemical detection devices, stretchers, and water tanks among other things.”*

**Source:** Avaz Yuldashev, “Казахстан в очередной раз окажет Таджикистану военно-техническую помощь (Kazakhstan will again render military-technical assistance to Tajikistan),” *Asia-Plus*, 28 December 2018. <https://news.tj/ru/news/tajikistan/security/20181228/kazakhstan-v-ocherednoi-raz-okazhet-tadzhikistanu-voenno-tehnicheskuyu-pomosh>

*...the governments of the two countries signed an agreement on the rendering of free military-technical assistance to Tajikistan, the press service of the Defense Ministry of Kazakhstan reports...Astana and Dushanbe will later agree on a list of military property to be transferred. Kazakhstan previously provided assistance with mine detectors, chemical detection devices, stretchers, and water tanks among other things...the agreement (also) provides for training Tajik officers in military schools in Kazakhstan.*

**Source:** Oksana Sotskaya, “Итоги боевой подготовки ВС РК 2018 года (The results of combat training of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2018),” *Sarbaz*, 28 December 2018. <https://sarbaz.kz/ru/army/itogi-boevoy-podgotovki-vs-rk-2018-goda--183612110/>

*...Soldiers of special forces units of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the tactical-special exercise ‘Añyraqai’...As a result of the six day joint exercise, all objectives were achieved...more than 300 service members took part...*

## Compendium of Central Asian Military and Security Activity

By Matthew Stein

Since Central Asian states gained independence in 1991, new regional military and security alliances have been created (some of which are Russian-led), new military partnerships with non-NATO countries have been established, a number of joint military exercises have been conducted, over a dozen high-profile incidents of violence and civil unrest have taken place, and military installations have been used by foreign militaries. While this activity gained attention, it has not been collectively compiled. A compilation of this activity can serve as a guide for current and future military and security involvement in Central Asia.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-monographs/194880>

