



Uzbekistan's Readiness Exercise

OE Watch Commentary: President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has worked to be more transparent in government affairs than his predecessor, Islam Karimov. As the accompanying excerpted articles demonstrate, this transparency resulted in press coverage of a recent large-scale, snap military exercise and there are a couple of things to note. Both articles are from *Anhor*, a Russian-language website with news on Uzbekistan, and the first one mentions important aspects of the exercise, including how it began as “a presidential order,” which went through the General Staff “out to the commands of the military districts” and that “before this, these kinds of exercises were not conducted in the army of Uzbekistan.” Additionally, the other article notes how “airborne, artillery, motorized rifle and tank units, as well as the Air Force and special operations forces, took part in the exercises.” Notably, both articles feature several photographs of the exercise, including some of the weapon systems and equipment in Uzbekistan’s inventory. In the past, assessments of the capabilities of Uzbekistan’s Armed Forces had limited access to the conditions and quantities of weapons and equipment in the country. Another exercise of this scale may not take place for some time, but if the transparency of President Mirziyoyev continues to have an impact on the armed forces, a better picture of its capabilities could emerge. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**

“Airborne, artillery, motorized rifle and tank units, as well as the Air Force and special operations forces, took part in the exercises.”

Source: “Как прошел первый день масштабных военных учений? (How did the first day of the large-scale military exercise go?),” *Anhor*, 27 November 2018. <https://anhor.uz/news/kak-proshel-perviy-deny-masshtabnih-voennih-ucheniy>

In accordance with a presidential order, a large-scale combat readiness check of the forces of the Ministry of Defense began on Monday. The exercise (was held) from 26 to 30 November... On the first day of the exercise, units deployed in columns of armored vehicles to assigned areas...The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan (then) issued orders out to the commands of the military districts...before this, these kinds of exercises were not conducted in the army of Uzbekistan...

Source: “Как Мирзиёев наблюдал за учениями на Чирчикском полигоне (How Mirziyoyev observed the exercises at the Chirchik training area),” *Anhor*, 29 November 2018. <https://anhor.uz/news/kak-mirziyoev-nablyudal-za-ucheniymi-na-chirchikskom-poligone-foto>

On 28 November at Chirchik, Shavkat Mirziyoyev observed the special tactical exercises of the units, which were raised to a high state of combat readiness...Airborne, artillery, motorized rifle and tank units, as well as the Air Force and special operations forces, took part in the exercises...



Vladimir Putin had talks with President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent (2018).

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