

News Release

Defense Threat Reduction Agency

U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction

On the Web: www.dtra.mil

Media Contact: 1 (703) 767-5870



For Immediate Release

No. DTRA 2015-007
September 4, 2015

DTRA/SCC-WMD DEPUTY DIRECTOR JOINS PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA AT VESSEL COMMISSIONING

FORT BELVOIR, VA – Major General John P. Horner, USAF, Deputy Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency/U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) joined Georgian Prime Minister, Irakli Garibashvili, in an event marking the completion of the Georgia Maritime Project.

The completion of this strategic facility, coupled with infrastructure enhancements at Coast Guard Headquarters in Poti, and the modernization of the Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Cutter, P-103 marks the successful completion of the project sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. DTRA/SCC-WMD and the Georgian Coast Guard worked closely together over the last three years to accomplish the critical objectives of this project, which focused on enhancing the Coast Guard's ability to detect and interdict weapons of mass destruction and related materials "on the move" along Georgia's Black Sea coast.

In his remarks, Maj. Gen. Horner noted that the Black Sea is a critical and strategic corridor for commerce and trade. "It is essential that the Georgian Coast Guard have the capacity to cover major threat areas and enhanced coastal response and interdiction abilities. The work done here gives the Coast Guard greater flexibility to conduct these tasks using its own personnel and resources."

The completion of the Georgia Maritime Project marks yet another significant milestone in the ongoing cooperative relationship between Georgia and the United States. The continued threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation across the world makes cooperative efforts such as these vital to the security of all nations.

"Our relationship throughout all stages of this work has been built upon mutual values, respect, and trust," Horner continued, "We could not have accomplished this without these qualities or without the sincere efforts of the Georgian team represented here."

Looking towards the future, Maj Gen Horner added "I am pleased to note that DTRA and the United States government will continue to work with our Georgian partners to address important land and maritime border security issues in the Caucasus region through a new project with the Georgia Border Police. This new effort will build on the successes of our longstanding and ongoing joint collaboration on security matters."

- END -

DTRA is the U.S. Department of Defense's official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction, addressing the entire spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats. DTRA's programs include basic science research and development, operational support to U.S. warfighters on the front line, and an in-house WMD think tank that aims to anticipate and mitigate future threats long before they have a chance to harm the United States and our allies. SCC-WMD, the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, synchronizes Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction efforts across our military's geographic commands and leverages the people, programs and interagency relationships of DTRA at a strategic level. We work with the military services, other elements of the United States government, and countries across the planet on counterproliferation, nonproliferation and WMD reduction issues with one goal in mind: Making the World Safer.