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**KYRGYZ MILITARY PARTICIPATING IN CSTO UNBREAKABLE BROTHERHOOD-2019 EXERCISES IN TAJIKISTAN**

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The opening ceremony of a joint exercise with the Collective Rapid Deployment Forces of the Central Asian Region and the CSTO Unbreakable Brotherhood 2019 peacekeeping forces was held on Oct. 20 at the Harbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan, the press service of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic reported.

During the exercise, which runs until Oct, 29, the forces will work out the preparation and conducting of a counter-terrorist operations.

The exercise was opened by Colonel General Anatoly Sidorov, the head of the CSTO Joint Staff, who noted: "The main tasks of the Collective Rapid Deployment Forces of the Central Asian Region are to repel external military aggression and conduct joint counter-terrorism operations."

The training is attended by military contingents of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, the operational group of the CSTO Joint Staff and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Police) unit. In total, more than 3,500 military personnel and more than 600 pieces of equipment are involved.

The drills will be held in two stages.

During the first stage, the rapid deployment forces of the Central Asian Region will carry out a counter-terrorist operation to destroy and block militant groups and illegal armed formations.

At the second stage, the CSTO peacekeeping forces will carry out an operation to maintain peace in the Central Asian region through collective security.

A joint exercise with the Collective Rapid Deployment Forces of the Central Asian Region and the CSTO Unbreakable Brotherhood-2019 peacekeeping forces is the final stage of the CSTO Combat Brotherhood-2019 operational-strategic exercise.

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